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References to footnotes in text and footnotes following page numbers are the original footnote numbers while superscripted references refer to the reindexed footnote numbers.

GALEN

ON THE NATURAL FACULTIES

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
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EDINBURGH



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The text used is (with a few unimportant modifications) that of Kühn (Vol. II), as edited by Georg Helmreich; Teubner, Leipzig, 1893. The numbers of the pages of Kühn's edition are printed at the side of the Greek text, a parallel mark (||) in the line indicating the exact point of division between Kühn's pages.

Words in the English text which are enclosed in square brackets are supplementary or explanatory; practically all explanations, however, are relegated to the footnotes or introduction. In the footnotes, also, attention is drawn to words which are of particular philological interest from the point of view of modern medicine.

I have made the translation directly from the Greek; where passages of special difficulty occurred, I have been able to compare my own version with Linacre's Latin translation (1523) and the French rendering of Charles Daremberg (1854-56); in this respect I am also peculiarly fortunate in having had the help of Mr. A. W. Pickard Cambridge of Balliol College, Oxford, who most kindly went through the proofs and made many valuable suggestions from the point of view of exact scholarship.

My best thanks are due to the Editors for their courtesy and for the kindly interest they have taken in the work. I have also gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of much assistance and encouragement from Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, and from Dr. J. D. Comrie, first lecturer on the History of Medicine at Edinburgh University. Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson of University College, Dundee, and Sir W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, late director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, have very kindly helped me to identify several animals and plants mentioned by Galen.

I cannot conclude without expressing a word of gratitude to my former biological teachers, Professors Patrick Geddes and J. Arthur Thomson. The experience reared on the foundation of their teaching has gone far to help me in interpreting the great medical biologist of Greece.

I should be glad to think that the present work might help, however little, to hasten the coming reunion between the "humanities" and modern biological science; their present separation I believe to be against the best interest of both.

A. J. B.

22ND STATIONARY HOSPITAL, ALDERSHOT.
March, 1916.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
INTRODUCTION	ix
BIBLIOGRAPHY	xli
SYNOPSIS OF CHAPTERS	xliii
BOOK I	1
BOOK II	117
BOOK III	223
INDEX AND GLOSSARY	335

If the work of Hippocrates be taken as representing the foundation upon which the edifice of historical Greek medicine was reared, then the work of Galen, who lived some six hundred years later, may be looked upon as the summit or apex of the same edifice. Galen's merit is to have crystallised or brought to a focus all the best work of the Greek medical schools which had preceded his own time. It is essentially in the form of Galenism that Greek medicine was transmitted to after ages.

Hippocrates and Galen.

The ancient Greeks referred the origins of medicine to a god Asklepios (called in Latin Aesculapius), thereby testifying to their appreciation of the truly divine function of the healing art. The emblem of Aesculapius, familiar in medical symbolism at the present day, was a staff with a serpent coiled round it, the animal typifying wisdom in general, and more particularly the wisdom of the medicine-man, with his semi-miraculous powers over life and death.

The Beginnings of Medicine in Greece.

"Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

The temples of Aesculapius were scattered over the ancient Hellenic world. To them the sick and ailing resorted in crowds. The treatment, which was in the hands of an hereditary priesthood, combined the best of the methods carried on at our present-day health-resorts, our hydropathics, sanatoriums, and nursing-homes. Fresh air, water-cures, massage, gymnastics, psychotherapy, and natural methods in general were chiefly relied on.

The Asclepiea or Health-Temples.

Hippocrates, the "Father of Medicine" (5th to 4th centuries, B.C.) was associated with the Asclepieum of Cos, an island off the south-west coast of Asia Minor, near Rhodes. He apparently revitalized the work of the health-temples, which had before his time been showing a certain decline in vigour, coupled with a corresponding excessive tendency towards sophistry and priestcraft.

Hippocrates and the Unity of the Organism.

Celsus says: "*Hippocrates Cous primus quidem ex omnibus memoria dignis ab studio sapientiae disciplinam hanc separavit.*" He means that Hippocrates first gave the physician an independent standing, separating him from the cosmological speculator. Hippocrates confined the medical man to medicine. He did with medical thought what Socrates did with thought in general—he "brought it down from heaven to earth." His watchword was "Back to Nature!"

At the same time, while assigning the physician his post, Hippocrates would not let him regard that post as sacrosanct. He set his face against any tendency to mystery-mongering, to exclusiveness, to sacerdotalism. He was, in fact, opposed to the spirit of trade-unionism in medicine. His concern was rather with the physician's duties than his "rights."

At the dawn of recorded medical history Hippocrates stands for the fundamental and primary importance of *seeing clearly*—that is of *clinical observation*. And what he observed was that the human organism, when exposed to certain abnormal conditions—certain stresses—tends to behave in a certain way: that in other words, each "disease" tends to run a certain definite course. To him a disease was essentially a process, one and indivisible, and thus his practical problem was essentially one of *prognosis*—"what will be the natural course of this disease, if left to itself?" Here he found himself to no small extent in opposition with the teaching of the neighbouring medical school of Cnidus, where a more static view-point laid special emphasis upon the minutiae of *diagnosis*.

Observation taught Hippocrates to place unbounded faith in the recuperative powers of the living organism—in what we sometimes call nowadays the *vis medicatrix Naturae*. His observation was that even with a very considerable "abnormality" of environmental stress the organism, in the large majority of cases, manages eventually by its own inherent powers to adjust itself to the new conditions. "Merely give Nature a chance," said the father of medicine in effect, "and most diseases will cure themselves." And accordingly his treatment was mainly directed towards "giving Nature a chance."

His keen sense of the solidarity (or rather, of the constant interplay) between the organism and its environment (the "conditions" to which it is exposed) is instanced in his book, "Airs, Waters, and Places." As we recognise, in our popular everyday psychology, that "it takes two to make a quarrel," so Hippocrates recognised that in pathology, it takes two (organism and environment) to make a disease.

As an outstanding example of his power of clinical observation we may recall the *facies Hippocratica*, an accurate study of the countenance of a dying man.

His ideals for the profession are embodied in the "Hippocratic oath."

Impressed by this view of the organism as a unity, the Hippocratic school tended in some degree to overlook the importance of its constituent *parts*. The balance was re-adjusted later on by the labours of the anatomical school of Alexandria, which, under the aegis of the enlightened Ptolemies, arose in the 3rd century B.C. Two prominent

Anatomy.

exponents of anatomy belonging to this school were Herophilus and Erasistratus, the latter of whom we shall frequently meet with in the following pages (v. [p. 95 et seq.](#)).

After the death of the Master, the Hippocratic school tended, as so often happens with the best of cultural movements, to show signs itself of diminishing vitality: the letter began to obscure and hamper the spirit. The comparatively small element of theory which existed in the Hippocratic physiology was made the groundwork of a somewhat over-elaborated "system." Against this tendency on the part of the "Dogmatic" or "Rationalist" school there arose, also at Alexandria, the sect of the Empiricists. "It is not," they said, "the cause but the cure of diseases that concerns us; not how we digest, but what is digestible."

The Empirics.

Horace said "*Graecia capta ferum victorem cepit.*" Political domination, the occupation of territory by armies, does not necessarily mean real conquest. Horace's statement applied to medicine as to other branches of culture.

Greek
Medicine
in Rome.

The introducer of Greek medicine into Rome was Asclepiades (1st century B.C.). A man of forceful personality, and equipped with a fully developed philosophic system of health and disease which commended itself to the Roman *savants* of the day, he soon attained to the pinnacle of professional success in the Latin capital: he is indeed to all time the type of the fashionable (and somewhat "faddy") West-end physician. His system was a purely mechanistic one, being based upon the atomic doctrine of Leucippus and Democritus, which had been completed by Epicurus and recently introduced to the Roman public in Lucretius's great poem "*De Rerum Natura.*" The disbelief of Asclepiades in the self-maintaining powers of the living organism are exposed and refuted at considerable length by Galen in the volume before us.

Out of the teaching of Asclepiades that physiological processes depend upon the particular way in which the ultimate indivisible molecules come together (ἐν τῇ ποίᾳ συνόδῳ τῶν πρώτων ἐκεῖνων σωμάτων τῶν ἀπαθῶν) there was developed by his pupil, Themison of Laodicea, a system of medicine characterised by the most engaging simplicity both of diagnosis and treatment. This so-called "Methodic" system was intended to strike a balance between the excessive leaning to apriorism shown by the Rationalist (Hippocratic) school and the opposite tendency of the Empiricists. "A pathological theory we must have," said the Methodists in effect, "but let it be simple." They held that the molecular groups constituting the tissues were traversed by minute channels (πόροι, "pores"); all diseases belonged to one or other of two classes; if the channels were constricted the disease was one of *stasis* (στέγνωσις), and if they were dilated the disease was one of *flux* (ῥύσις). Flux and stasis were indicated respectively by increase and diminution of the natural secretions; treatment was of opposites by opposites—of stasis by methods causing dilatation of the channels, and conversely.

The
Methodists.

Wild as it may seem, this pathological theory of the Methodists contained an element of truth; in various guises it has cropped up once and again at different epochs of medical history; even to-day there are pathologists who tend to describe certain classes of disease in terms of vaso-constriction and vaso-dilatation. The vice of the Methodist teaching was that it looked on a disease too much as something fixed and finite, an independent *entity*, to be considered entirely apart from its particular setting. The Methodists illustrate for us the tyranny of *names*. In its defects as in its virtues this school has analogues at the present day; we are all acquainted with the medical man to whom a name (such, let us say, as "tuberculosis," "gout," or "intestinal auto-intoxication") stands for an entity, one and indivisible, to be treated by a definite and unvarying formula.

To such an individual the old German saying "*Jedermann hat am Ende ein Bischen Tuberkulose*" is simply—incomprehensible.

All the medical schools which I have mentioned were still holding their ground in the 2nd century A.D., with more or less popular acceptance, when the great Galen made his entry into the world of Graeco-Roman medicine.

Galen.

Claudius Galenus was born at Pergamos in Asia Minor in the year 131 A.D. His father was one Nicon, a well-to-do architect of that city. "I had the great good fortune," says Galen,¹ "to have as a father a highly amiable, just, good, and benevolent man. My mother, on the other hand, possessed a very bad temper; she used sometimes to bite her serving-maids, and she was perpetually shouting at my father and quarrelling with him—worse than Xanthippe with Socrates. When, therefore, I compared the excellence of my father's disposition with the disgraceful passions of my mother, I resolved to embrace and love the former qualities, and to avoid and hate the latter."

His Nature and
Nurture.

Nicon called his son Γαληνός, which means *quiet, peaceable*, and although the physician eventually turned out to be a man of elevated character, it is possible that his somewhat excessive leaning towards controversy (exemplified in the following pages) may have resulted from the fact that he was never quite able to throw off the

worst side of the maternal inheritance.

His father, a man well schooled in mathematics and philosophy, saw to it that his son should not lack a liberal education. Pergamos itself was an ancient centre of civilisation, containing, among other culture-institutions, a library only second in importance to that of Alexandria itself; it also contained an Asclepieum.

Pg xvii Galen's training was essentially eclectic: he studied all the chief philosophical systems of the time—Platonic, Aristotelian, Stoic, and Epicurean—and then, at the age of seventeen, entered on a course of medical studies; these he pursued under the best teachers at his own city, and afterwards, during a period of *Wanderjahre*, at Smyrna, Alexandria, and other leading medical centres.

Returning to Pergamos, he received his first professional appointment—that of surgeon to the gladiators. After four years here he was drawn by ambition to Rome, being at that time about thirty-one years of age. At Rome the young Pergamene attained a brilliant reputation both as a practitioner and as a public demonstrator of anatomy; among his patients he finally numbered even the Emperor Marcus Aurelius himself.

Medical practice in Rome at this time was at a low ebb, and Galen took no pains to conceal his contempt for the ignorance, charlatanism, and venality of his fellow-practitioners. Eventually, in spite of his social popularity, he raised up such odium against himself in medical circles, that he was forced to flee the city. This he did hurriedly and secretly in the year 168 A.D., when thirty-six years of age. He betook himself to his old home at Pergamos, where he settled down once more to a literary life.

Pg xviii His respite was short, however, for within a year he was summoned back to Italy by imperial mandate. Marcus Aurelius was about to undertake an expedition against the Germans, who at that time were threatening the northern frontiers of the Empire, and he was anxious that his consulting physician should accompany him to the front. "Patriotism" in this sense, however, seems to have had no charms for the Pergamene, and he pleaded vigorously to be excused. Eventually, the Emperor gave him permission to remain at home, entrusting to his care the young prince Commodus.

Thereafter we know little of Galen's history, beyond the fact that he now entered upon a period of great literary activity. Probably he died about the end of the century.

Galen wrote extensively, not only on anatomy, physiology, and medicine in general, but also on logic; his logical proclivities, as will be shown later, are well exemplified in his medical writings. A considerable number of undoubtedly genuine works of his have come down to us. The full importance of his contributions to medicine does not appear to have been recognized till some time after his death, but eventually, as already pointed out, the terms Galenism and Greek medicine became practically synonymous.

Subsequent
History of
Galen's
Works.

A few words may be devoted to the subsequent history of his writings.

Pg xix During and after the final break-up of the Roman Empire came times of confusion and of social reconstruction, which left little opportunity for scientific thought and research. The Byzantine Empire, from the 4th century onwards, was the scene of much internal turmoil, in which the militant activities of the now State-established Christian church played a not inconsiderable part. The Byzantine medical scholars were at best compilers, and a typical compiler was Oribasius, body-physician to the Emperor Julian (4th century, A.D.); his excellent *Synopsis* was written in order to make the huge mass of the Galenic writings available for the ordinary practitioner.

Byzantine
Medicine.

Greek medicine spread, with general Greek culture, throughout Syria, and from thence was carried by the Nestorians, a persecuted heretical sect, into Persia; here it became implanted, and hence eventually spread to the Mohammedan world. Several of the Prophet's successors (such as the Caliphs Harun-al-Rashid and Abdul-Rahman III) were great patrons of Greek learning, and especially of medicine. The Arabian scholars imbibed Aristotle and Galen with avidity. A partial assimilation, however, was the farthest stage to which they could attain; with the exception of pharmacology, the Arabians made practically no independent additions to medicine. They were essentially systematizers and commentators. "*Averrois che il gran comento feo*"² may stand as the type *par excellence* of the Moslem sage.

Arabian
Medicine.

Pg xx Avicenna (Ebn Sina), (10th to 11th century) is the foremost name in Arabian medicine: his "Book of the Canon in Medicine," when translated into Latin, even overshadowed the authority of Galen himself for some four centuries. Of this work the medical historian Max Neuburger says: "Avicenna, according to his lights, imparted to contemporary medical science the appearance of almost mathematical accuracy, whilst the art of therapeutics, although empiricism did not wholly lack recognition, was deduced as a logical sequence from theoretical (Galenic and Aristotelian) premises."

Having arrived at such a condition in the hands of the Mohammedans, Galenism was now destined to pass once more to the West. From the 11th century onwards Latin translations of this "Arabian" Medicine (being Greek medicine in oriental trappings) began to make their way into Europe; here they helped to undermine the authority of the one medical school of native growth which the West produced during the Middle Ages—namely the School of Salerno.

Introduction of Arabian Medicine to the West. Arabo-Scholastic Period.

Pg xxi

Blending with the Scholastic philosophy at the universities of Naples and Montpellier, the teachings of Aristotle and Galen now assumed a position of supreme authority: from their word, in matters scientific and medical, there was no appeal. In reference to this period the Pergamene was referred to in later times as the "Medical Pope of the Middle Ages."

It was of course the logical side of Galenism which chiefly commended it to the mediaeval Schoolmen, as to the essentially speculative Moslems.

The year 1453, when Constantinople fell into the hands of the Turks, is often taken as marking the commencement of the Renaissance. Among the many factors which tended to stimulate and awaken men's minds during these spacious times was the rediscovery of the Greek classics, which were brought to Europe by, among others, the scholars who fled from Byzantium. The Arabo-Scholastic versions of Aristotle and Galen were now confronted by their Greek originals. A passion for Greek learning was aroused. The freshness and truth of these old writings helped to awaken men to a renewed sense of their own dignity and worth, and to brace them in their own struggle for self-expression.

The Renaissance.

Pg xxii

Prominent in this "Humanist" movement was the English physician, Thomas Linacre (c. 1460-1524) who, having gained in Italy an extraordinary zeal for the New Learning, devoted the rest of his life, after returning to England, to the promotion of the *litterae humaniores*, and especially to making Galen accessible to readers of Latin. Thus the "*De Naturalibus Facultatibus*" appeared in London in 1523, and was preceded and followed by several other translations, all marked by minute accuracy and elegant Latinity.

Two new parties now arose in the medical world—the so-called "Greeks" and the more conservative "Arabists."

But the swing of the pendulum did not cease with the creation of the liberal "Greek" party; the dazzling vision of freedom was to drive some to a yet more anarchical position. Paracelsus, who flourished in the first half of the 16th century, may be taken as typifying this extremist tendency. His one cry was, "Let us away with all authority whatsoever, and get back to Nature!" At his first lecture as professor at the medical school of Basle he symbolically burned the works of Galen and of his chief Arabian exponent, Avicenna.

Paracelsus.

But the final collapse of authority in medicine could not be brought about by mere negativism. It was the constructive work of the Renaissance anatomists, particularly those of the Italian school, which finally brought Galenism to the ground.

The Renaissance Anatomists.

Pg xxiii

Vesalius (1514-64), the modern "Father of Anatomy," for dissecting human bodies, was fiercely assailed by the hosts of orthodoxy, including that stout Galenist, his old teacher Jacques Dubois (Jacobus Sylvius). Vesalius held on his way, however, proving, *inter alia*, that Galen had been wrong in saying that the interventricular septum of the heart was permeable (*cf.* present volume, [p. 321](#)).

Michael Servetus (1509-53) suggested that the blood, in order to get from the right to the left side of the heart, might have to pass through the lungs. For his heterodox opinions he was burned at the stake.

Another 16th-century anatomist, Andrea Cesalpino, is considered by the Italians to have been a discoverer of the circulation of the blood before Harvey; he certainly had a more or less clear idea of the circulation, but, as in the case of the "organic evolutionists before Darwin," he failed to prove his point by conclusive demonstration.

William Harvey, the great Englishman who founded modern experimental physiology and was the first to establish not only the fact of the circulation but also the physical laws governing it, is commonly reckoned the Father of Modern Medicine. He owed his interest in the movements of the blood to Fabricio of Acquapendente, his tutor at Padua, who drew his attention to the valves in the veins, thus suggesting the idea of a circular as opposed to a to-and-fro motion. Harvey's great generalisation, based upon a long series of experiments *in vivo*, was considered to have given the *coup de grâce* to the Galenic physiology, and hence threw temporary discredit upon the whole system of medicine associated therewith.

William Harvey (1578-1657).

Pg xxiv

Modern medicine, based upon a painstaking research into the details of physiological function, had begun.

While we cannot sufficiently commend the results of the long modern period of

Back to Galen!

research-work to which the labours of the Renaissance anatomists from Vesalius to Harvey form a fitting prelude, we yet by no means allow that Galen's general medical outlook was so entirely invalidated as many imagine by the conclusive demonstration of his anatomical errors. It is time for us now to turn to Galen again after three hundred years of virtual neglect: it may be that he will help us to see something fundamentally important for medical practice which is beyond the power even of our microscopes and X-rays to reveal. While the value of his work undoubtedly lies mainly in its enabling us to envisage one of the greatest of the early steps attained by man in medical knowledge, it also has a very definite intrinsic value of its own.

No attempt can be made here to determine how much of Galen's work is, in the true sense of the word, original, and how much is drawn from the labours of his predecessors. In any case, there is no doubt that he was much more than a mere compiler and systematizer of other men's work: he was great enough to be able not merely to collect, to digest, and to assimilate all the best of the work done before his time, but, adding to this the outcome of his own observations, experiments, and reflections, to present the whole in an articulated "system" showing that perfect balance of parts which is the essential criterion of a work of art. Constantly, however, in his writings we shall come across traces of the influence of, among others, Plato, Aristotle, and writers of the Stoic school.

Galen's
Debt to his
Precursors.

Pg xxv

Although Galen is an eclectic in the best sense of influence of the term, there is one name to which he pays a very special tribute—that of his illustrious forerunner Hippocrates. Him on quite a number of occasions he actually calls "divine" (cf. [p. 293](#)).

Influence of
Hippocrates
on Galen.

"Hippocrates," he says, "was the first known to us of all who have been both physicians and philosophers, in that *he was the first to recognise what nature does.*" Here is struck the keynote of the teaching of both Hippocrates and Galen; this is shown in the volume before us, which deals with "the *natural* faculties"—that is with the faculties of this same "Nature" or vital principle referred to in the quotation.

If Galen be looked on as a crystallisation of Greek medicine, then this book may be looked on as a crystallisation of Galen. Within its comparatively short compass we meet with instances illustrating perhaps most of the sides of this many-sided writer. The "Natural Faculties" therefore forms an excellent prelude to the study of his larger and more specialised works.

"The
Natural
Faculties."

Pg xxvi

What, now, is this "Nature" or biological principle upon which Galen, like Hippocrates, bases the whole of his medical teaching, and which, we may add, is constantly overlooked—if indeed ever properly apprehended—by many physiologists of the present day? By using this term Galen meant simply that, when we deal with a living thing, we are dealing primarily with a unity, which, *quâ* living, is not further divisible; all its parts can only be understood and dealt with as being *in relation to* this principle of unity. Galen was thus led to criticise with considerable severity many of the medical and surgical specialists of his time, who acted on the assumption (implicit if not explicit) that the whole was merely the sum of its parts, and that if, in an ailing organism, these parts were treated each in and for itself, the health of the whole organism could in this way be eventually restored.

Galen's
"Physiology."

Galen expressed this idea of the unity of the organism by saying that it was governed by a *Physis* or Nature (ἡ φύσις ἥπερ διοικεῖ τὸ ζῶον), with whose "faculties" or powers it was the province of φυσιολογία (physiology, Nature-lore) to deal. It was because Hippocrates had a clear sense of this principle that Galen called him master. "Greatest," say the Moslems, "is Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet." "Greatest," said Galen, "is the Physis, and Hippocrates is its prophet." Never did Mohammed more zealously maintain the unity of the Godhead than Hippocrates and Galen the unity of the organism.

Pg xxvii

But we shall not have read far before we discover that the term *Physiology*, as used by Galen, stands not merely for what we understand by it nowadays, but also for a large part of *Physics* as well. This is one of the chief sources of confusion in his writings. Having grasped, for example, the uniqueness of the process of *specific selection* (ὄλκη τοῦ οἰκείου), by which the tissues nourish themselves, he proceeds to apply this principle in explanation of entirely different classes of phenomena; thus he mixes it up with the physical phenomenon of the attraction of the lodestone for iron, of dry grain for moisture, etc. It is noteworthy, however, in these latter instances, that he does not venture to follow out his comparison to its logical conclusion; he certainly stops short of hinting that the lodestone (like a living organ or tissue) *assimilates* the metal which it has attracted!

Galen's
Physics.

Setting aside, however, these occasional half-hearted attempts to apply his principle of a φύσις in regions where it has no natural standing, we shall find that in the field of biology Galen moves with an assurance bred of first-hand experience.

Against his attempt to "biologize" physics may be set the converse attempt of the mechanical Atomist school. Thus in Asclepiades he found a doughty defender of the view that physiology was "merely" physics. Galen's ire being roused, he is not

The
Mechanical
Physicists.

content with driving the enemy out of the biological camp, but must needs attempt also to dislodge him from that of physics, in which he has every right to be.

In defence of the universal validity of his principle, Galen also tends to excessive disparagement of morphological factors; witness his objection to the view of the anatomist Erasistratus that the calibre of vessels played a part in determining the secretion of fluids (p. 123), that digestion was caused by the mechanical action of the stomach walls (p. 243), and dropsy by induration of the liver (p. 171).

The Anatomists.

While combating the atomic explanation of physical processes, Galen of course realised that there were many of these which could only be explained according to what we should now call “mechanical laws.” For example, non-living things could be subjected to *φορά* (passive motion), they answered to the laws of gravity (*ταῖς τῶν ὑλῶν οἰακίζόμενα ῥοπαῖς*, p. 126). Furthermore, Galen did not fail to see that living things also were not entirely exempted from the operation of these laws; they too may be at least partly subject to gravity (*loc. cit.*); a hollow organ exerts, by virtue of its cavity, an attraction similar to that of dilating bellows, as well as, by virtue of the living tissue of its walls, a specifically “vital” or selective kind of attraction (p. 325).

Characteristics of the Living Organism.

As a type of characteristically vital action we may take *nutrition*, in which occurs a phenomenon which Galen calls *active motion* (*δραστική κίνησις*) or, more technically, *alteration* (*ἀλλοίωσις*). This active type of motion cannot be adequately stated in terms of the passive movements (groupings and re-groupings) of its constituent parts according to certain empirical “laws.” Alteration involves *self-movement*, a self-determination of the organism or organic part. Galen does not attempt to explain this fundamental characteristic of *alteration* any further; he contents himself with referring his opponents to Aristotle’s work on the “Complete Alteration of Substance” (p. 9).

The most important characteristic of the Physis or Nature is its *τέχνη*—its artistic creativeness. In other words, the living organism is a creative artist. This feature may be observed typically in its primary functions of *growth* and *nutrition*; these are dependent on the characteristic *faculties* or powers, by virtue of which each part draws to itself what is proper or appropriate to it (*το οἰκεῖον*) and rejects what is foreign (*το ἀλλότριον*), thereafter appropriating or assimilating the attracted material; this assimilation is an example of the *alteration* (or qualitative change) already alluded to; thus the food eaten is “altered” into the various tissues of the body, each of these having been provided by “Nature” with its own specific faculties of attraction and repulsion.

Any of the operations of the living part may be looked on in three ways, either (*a*) as a *δύναμις*, faculty, potentiality; (*b*) as an *ἐνέργεια*, which is this *δύναμις* in operation; or (*c*) as an *ἔργον*, the product or effect of the *ἐνέργεια*.³

The Three Categories.

Like his master Hippocrates, Galen attached fundamental importance to clinical observation—to the evidence of the senses as the indispensable groundwork of all medical knowledge. He had also, however, a forte for rapid generalisation from observations, and his logical proclivities disposed him particularly to deductive reasoning. Examples of an almost Euclidean method of argument may be found in the *Natural Faculties* (e.g. Book III. chap. i.). While this method undoubtedly gave him much help in his search for truth, it also not unfrequently led him astray. This is evidenced by his attempt, already noted, to apply the biological principle of the *φύσις* in physics. Characteristic examples of attempts to force facts to fit premises will be found in Book II. chap. ix., where our author demonstrates that yellow bile is “virtually” dry, and also, by a process of exclusion, assigns to the spleen the function of clearing away black bile. Strangest of all is his attempt to prove that the same principle of specific attraction by which the ultimate tissues nourish themselves (and the lodestone attracts iron!) accounts for the reception of food into the stomach, of urine into the kidneys, of bile into the gall-bladder, and of semen into the uterus.

Galen’s Method.

These instances are given, however, without prejudice to the system of generalisation and deduction which, in Galen’s hands, often proved exceedingly fruitful. He is said to have tried “to unite professional and scientific medicine with a philosophic link.” He objected, however, to such extreme attempts at simplification of medical science as that of the Methodists, to whom diseases were isolated entities, without any relationships in time or space (v. p. xv. *supra*).

He based much of his pathological reasoning upon the “humoral theory” of Hippocrates, according to which certain diseases were caused by one or more of the four humours (blood, phlegm, black and yellow bile) being in excess—that is, by various *dyscrasiae*. Our modern conception of “hormone” action shows certain resemblances with this theory.

Besides observation and reasoning, Galen took his stand on *experiment*; he was one of the first of experimental physiologists, as is illustrated in the present book by his researches into the function of the kidneys (p. 59 *et seq.*). He also conducted a long series of experiments into the physiology of the spinal cord, to determine what parts controlled movement and what sensibility.

As a practitioner he modelled his work largely on the broad and simple lines laid down by Hippocrates. He had also at his disposal all the acquisitions of biological science dating from the time of Aristotle five hundred years earlier, and reinforced by the discoveries in anatomy made by the Alexandrian school. To these he added a large series of researches of his own.

Pg xxxiv

Galen never confined himself to what one might call the academic or strictly orthodox sources of information; he roamed the world over for answers to his queries. For example, we find him on his journeys between Pergamos and Rome twice visiting the island of Lemnos in order to procure some of the *terra sigillata*, a kind of earth which had a reputation for healing the bites of serpents and other wounds. At other times he visited the copper-mines of Cyprus in search for copper, and Palestine for the resin called Balm of Gilead.

By inclination and training Galen was the reverse of a "party-man." In the *Natural Faculties* (p. 55) he speaks of the bane of sectarian partizanship, "harder to heal than any itch." He pours scorn upon the ignorant "Erasistrateans" and "Asclepiadeans," who attempted to hide their own incompetence under the shield of some great man's name (cf. p. 141).

Of the two chief objects of his censure in the *Natural Faculties*, Galen deals perhaps less rigorously with Erasistratus than with Asclepiades. Erasistratus did at least recognize the existence of a vital principle in the organism, albeit, with his eye on the structures which the scalpel displayed he tended frequently to forget it. The researches of the anatomical school of Alexandria had been naturally of the greatest service to surgery, but in medicine they sometimes had a tendency to check progress by diverting attention from the whole to the part.

Pg xxxv

Another novel conception frequently occurring in Galen's writings is that of the *Pneuma* (*i.e.* the breath, *spiritus*). This word is used in two senses, as meaning (1) the inspired air, which was drawn into the left side of the heart and thence carried all over the body by the arteries; this has not a few analogies with oxygen, particularly as its action in the tissues is attended with the appearance of the so-called "innate heat." (2) A vital principle, conceived as being made up of matter in the most subtle imaginable state (*i.e.* air). This vital principle became resolved into three kinds: (a) πνεῦμα φυσικόν or *spiritus naturalis*, carried by the veins, and presiding over the subconscious vegetative life; this "natural spirit" is therefore practically equivalent to the φύσις or "nature" itself. (b) The πνεῦμα ζωτικόν or *spiritus vitalis*; here particularly is a source of error, since the air already alluded to as being carried by the arteries tends to be confused with this principle of "individuality" or relative autonomy in the circulatory (including, perhaps, the vasomotor) system. (c) The πνεῦμα ψυχικόν or *spiritus animalis* (*anima* = ψυχή), carried by longitudinal canals in the nerves; this corresponds to the ψυχή.

The
Pneuma
or Spirit.

This view of a "vital principle" as necessarily consisting of matter in a finely divided, fluid, or "etheric" state is not unknown even in our day. Belief in the fundamental importance of the *Pneuma* formed the basis of the teaching of another vitalist school in ancient Greece, that of the *Pneumatists*.

Pg xxxvi

It is unnecessary to detail here the various ways in which Galen's physiological views differ from those of the Moderns, as most of these are noticed in footnotes to the text of the present translation. His ignorance of the circulation of the blood does not lessen the force of his general physiological conclusions to the extent that might be anticipated. In his opinion, the great bulk of the blood travelled with a to-and-fro motion in the veins, while a little of it, mixed with inspired air, moved in the same way along the arteries; whereas we now know that all the blood goes outward by the arteries and returns by the veins; in either case blood is carried to the tissues by blood-vessels, and Galen's ideas of tissue-nutrition were wonderfully sound. The ingenious method by which (in ignorance of the pulmonary circulation) he makes blood pass from the right to the left ventricle, may be read in the present work (p. 321). As will be seen, he was conversant with the "anastomoses" between the ultimate branches of arteries and veins, although he imagined that they were not used under "normal" conditions.

Galen and
the Circulation
of the
Blood.

Pg xxxvii

Galen was not only a man of great intellectual gifts, but one also of strong moral fibre. In his short treatise "That the best Physician is also a Philosopher" he outlines his professional ideals. It is necessary for the efficient healer to be versed in the three branches of "philosophy," viz.: (a) *logic*, the science of how to think; (b) *physics*, the science of what is—*i.e.* of "Nature" in the widest sense; (c) *ethics*, the science of what to do. The amount of toil which he who wishes to be a physician must undergo—firstly, in mastering the work of his predecessors and afterwards in studying disease at first hand—makes it absolutely necessary that he should possess perfect self-control, that he should scorn money and the weak pleasures of the senses, and should live laborious days.

Galen's
Character.

Readers of the following pages will notice that Galen uses what we should call distinctly immoderate language towards those who ventured to differ from the views of his master Hippocrates (which were also his own). The employment of such

language was one of the few weaknesses of his age which he did not transcend. Possibly also his mother's choleric temper may have predisposed him to it.

The fact, too, that his vivisection experiments (*e.g.* pp. 59, 273) were carried out apparently without any kind of anaesthetisation being even thought of is abhorrent to the feelings of to-day, but must be excused also on the ground that callousness towards animals was then customary, men having probably never thought much about the subject.

Galen is a master of language, using a highly polished variety of Attic prose with a precision which can be only very imperfectly reproduced in another tongue. Every word he uses has an exact and definite meaning attached to it. Translation is particularly difficult when a word stands for a physiological conception which is not now held; instances are the words *anadosis*, *prosthesis*, and *prospophysis*, indicating certain steps in the process by which nutriment is conveyed from the alimentary canal to the tissues.

Galen's
Greek Style.

Pg xxxviii

Readers will be surprised to find how many words are used by Galen which they would have thought had been expressly coined to fit modern conceptions; thus our author employs not merely such terms as *physiology*, *phthisis*, *atrophy*, *anastomosis*, but also *haematopoietic*, *anaesthesia*, and even *aseptic*! It is only fair, however, to remark that these terms, particularly the last, were not used by Galen in quite their modern significance.

To resume, then: What contribution can Galen bring to the art of healing at the present day? It was not, surely, for nothing that the great Pergamene gave laws to the medical world for over a thousand years!

Summary.

Let us draw attention once more to:

(1) The high ideal which he set before the profession.

(2) His insistence on immediate contact with nature as the primary condition for arriving at an understanding of disease; on the need for due consideration of previous authorities; on the need also for reflection—for employment of the mind's eye (ἡ λογικὴ θεωρία) as an aid to the physical eye.

(3) His essentially broad outlook, which often helped him in the comprehension of a phenomenon through his knowledge of an analogous phenomenon in another field of nature.

Pg xxxix

(4) His keen appreciation of the unity of the organism, and of the inter-dependence of its parts; his realisation that the vital phenomena (physiological and pathological) in a living organism can only be understood when considered in relation to the *environment* of that organism or part. This is the foundation for the war that Galen waged à outrance on the Methodists, to whom diseases were things without relation to anything. This dispute is, unfortunately, not touched upon in the present volume. What Galen combated was the tendency, familiar enough in our own day, to reduce medicine to the science of finding a label for each patient, and then treating not the patient, but the label. (This tendency, we may remark in parenthesis, is one which is obviously well suited for the *standardising* purposes of a State medical service, and is therefore one which all who have the weal of the profession at heart must most jealously watch in the difficult days that lie ahead.)

(5) His realisation of the inappropriateness and inadequacy of physical formulae in explaining physiological activities. Galen's disputes with Asclepiades over τὰ πρῶτα ἐκεῖνα σώματα τὰ ἀπαθῆ, over the ἀναρμα στοιχεῖα καὶ ληρώδεις ὄγκοι, is but another aspect of his quarrel with the Methodists regarding their pathological "units," whose primary characteristic was just this same ἀπάθεια (impassiveness to environment, "unimpressionability"). We have of course our Physiatrie or Iatromechanical school at the present day, to whom such processes as absorption from the alimentary canal, the respiratory interchange of gases, and the action of the renal epithelium are susceptible of a purely physical explanation.⁴

Pg xl

(6) His quarrel with the Anatomists, which was in essence the same as that with the Atomists, and which arose from his clear realisation that that primary and indispensable desideratum, a view of the whole, could never be obtained by a mere summation of partial views; hence, also, his sense of the dangers which would beset the medical art if it were allowed to fall into the hands of a mere crowd of competing specialists without any organising head to guide them.

1 *On the Affections of the Mind*, p. 41 (Kühn's ed.).

2 "Averrhoës who made the great Commentary" (Dante). It was Averrhoës (Ebn Roshd) who, in the 12th century, introduced Aristotle to the Mohammedan world, and the "Commentary" referred to was on Aristotle.

3 What appear to me to be certain resemblances between the Galenical and the modern vitalistic views of Henri Bergson may perhaps be alluded to here. Galen's vital principle, ἡ τεχνικὴ φύσις ("creative growth"), presents analogies with *l'Evolution créatrice*: both manifest their activity in producing qualitative change

(ἀλλοίωσις, *change*): in both, the creative change cannot be analysed into a series of static states, but is one and continuous. In Galen, however, it comes to an end with the *development of the individual*, whereas in Bergson it continues indefinitely as the *evolution of life*. The three aspects of organic life may be tabulated thus:—

δύναμις	ἐνέργεια	ἔργον
Work to be done.	Work being done.	Work done, finished.
Future aspect.	Present aspect.	Past aspect.
	Function.	Structure.
	The <i>élan vital</i> .	A "thing."
	A changing which cannot be understood as a sum of static parts; a constant becoming, never stopping—at least till the ἔργον is reached.	
Bergson's aspect.	"teleological" Bergson's aspect.	Bergson's "philosophical" "outlook of physical science."

Galen recognized "creativity" (τέχνη) in the *development* of the individual and its parts (ontogeny) and in the maintenance of these, but he failed to appreciate the creative *evolution* of species (phylogeny), which is, of course, part of the same process. To the teleologist the possibilities (δυνάμεις) of the Physis are limited, to Bergson they are unlimited. Galen and Bergson agree in attaching most practical importance to the middle category—that of Function.

While it must be conceded that Galen, following Aristotle, had never seriously questioned the fixity of species, the following quotation from his work *On Habits* (chap. ii.) will show that he must have at least had occasional glimmerings of our modern point of view on the matter. Referring to *assimilation*, he says: "Just as everything we eat or drink becomes *altered in quality*, so of course also does the altering factor itself become altered.... A clear proof of the assimilation of things which are being nourished to that which is nourishing them is the change which occurs in plants and seeds; this often goes so far that what is highly noxious in one soil becomes, when transplanted into another soil, not merely harmless, but actually useful. This has been largely put to the test by those who compose memoirs on farming and on plants, as also by zoological authors who have written on the changes which occur according to the countries in which animals live. Since, therefore, not only is the nourishment altered by the creature nourished, but the latter itself also undergoes some slight alteration, *this slight alteration must necessarily become considerable in the course of time*, and thus properties resulting from prolonged habit must come to be on a par with natural properties."

Galen fails to see the possibility that the "natural" properties themselves originated in this way, as activities which gradually became habitual—that is to say, that the effects of *nurture* may become a "second nature," and so eventually *nature* itself.

The whole passage, however, may be commended to modern biologists—particularly, might one say, to those bacteriologists who have not yet realised how extraordinarily *relative* is the term "specificity" when applied to the subject-matter of their science.

4 In terms of filtration, diffusion, and osmosis.

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BOOK I

CHAPTER [I](#)

Distinction between the effects of (a) the organism's *psyche* or soul (b) its *physis* or nature. The author proposes to confine himself to a consideration of the latter—the vegetative—aspect of life.

CHAPTER [II](#)

Definition of terms. Different kinds of *motion*. *Alteration* or qualitative change. Refutation of the Sophists' objection that such change is only apparent, not real. The four fundamental qualities of Hippocrates (later Aristotle). Distinction between *faculty*, *activity* (function), and *effect* (work or product).

CHAPTER [III](#)

It is by virtue of the *four qualities* that each part functions. Some authorities subordinate the dry and the moist principles to the hot and the cold. Aristotle inconsistent here.

CHAPTER [IV](#)

We must suppose that there are *faculties* corresponding in number to the visible *effects* (or products) with which we are familiar.

CHAPTER [V](#)

Genesis, growth, and nutrition. Genesis (embryogeny) sub-divided into histogenesis and organogenesis. Growth is a tridimensional expansion of the solid parts formed during genesis. Nutrition.

CHAPTER [VI](#)

The process of genesis (embryogeny) from insemination onwards. Each of the simple, elementary, homogeneous parts (tissues) is produced by a special blend of the four primary alterative faculties (such secondary alterative faculties being *ostopoietic*, *neuropoietic*, etc.). A special *function* and *use* also corresponds to each of these special tissues. The bringing of these tissues together into *organs* and the disposal of these organs is performed by another faculty called *diaplastic*, *moulding*, or *formative*.

CHAPTER [VII](#)

We now pass from genesis to *growth*. Growth essentially a post-natal process; it involves two factors, expansion and nutrition, explained by analogy of a familiar child's game.

CHAPTER [VIII](#)

Nutrition.

CHAPTER [IX](#)

These three primary faculties (genesis, growth, nutrition) have various others subservient to them.

CHAPTER [X](#)

Nutrition not a simple process. (1) Need of subsidiary organs for the various stages of alteration, *e.g.*, of bread into blood, of that into bone, etc. (2) Need also of organs for excreting the non-utilizable portions of the food, *e.g.*, much vegetable matter is superfluous. (3) Need of organs of a third kind, for distributing the pabulum through the body.

CHAPTER [XI](#)

Nutrition analysed into the stages of application (*prosthesis*), adhesion (*prospysis*), and assimilation. The stages illustrated by certain pathological conditions. Different shades of meaning of the term *nutriment*.

CHAPTER [XII](#)

The two chief medico-philosophical schools—Atomist and Vitalist. Hippocrates an adherent of the latter school—his doctrine of an original principle or "nature" in every living thing (doctrine of the unity of the organism).

CHAPTER [XIII](#)

Failure of Asclepiades to understand the functions of kidneys and ureters. His hypothesis of vaporization of imbibed fluids is here refuted. A demonstration of urinary secretion in the living animal; the forethought and artistic skill of Nature vindicated. Refutation also of Asclepiades's disbelief in the special selective action of purgative drugs.

CHAPTER [XIV](#)

While Asclepiades denies *in toto* the obvious fact of specific attraction, Epicurus grants the fact, although his attempt to explain it by the atomic hypothesis breaks down. Refutation of the Epicurean theory of magnetic attraction. Instances of specific attraction of thorns and animal poisons by medicaments, of moisture by corn, etc.

CHAPTER [XV](#)

It now being granted that the urine is secreted by the kidneys, the *rationale* of this secretion is enquired into. The kidneys are not mechanical filters, but are by virtue of their *nature* possessed of a specific faculty of attraction.

CHAPTER [XVI](#)

Erasistratus, again, by his favourite principle of *horror vacui* could never explain the secretion of urine by the kidneys. While, however, he acknowledged that the kidneys do secrete urine, he makes no attempt to explain this; he ignores, but does not attempt to refute, the Hippocratic doctrine of specific *attraction*. "Servile" position taken up by Asclepiades and Erasistratus in regard to this function of urinary secretion.

Pg xlvi

CHAPTER [XVII](#)

Three other attempts (by adherents of the Erasistratean school and by Lycus of Macedonia) to explain how the kidneys come to separate out urine from the blood. All these ignore the obvious principle of attraction.

BOOK II

CHAPTER [I](#)

In order to explain dispersal of food from alimentary canal *viâ* the veins (*anadosis*) there is no need to invoke with Erasistratus, the *horror vacui*, since here again the principle of specific attraction is operative; moreover, blood is also driven forward by the compressing action of the stomach and the contractions of the veins. Possibility, however, of Erasistratus's factor playing a certain minor *rôle*.

CHAPTER [II](#)

The Erasistratean idea that bile becomes separated out from the blood in the liver because, being the thinner fluid, it alone can enter the narrow stomata of the bile-ducts, while the thicker blood can only enter the wider mouths of the hepatic venules.

CHAPTER [III](#)

The morphological factors suggested by Erasistratus are quite inadequate to explain biological happenings. Erasistratus inconsistent with his own statements. The immanence of the *physis* or nature; her shaping is not merely external like that of a statuary, but involves the entire substance. In genesis (embryogeny) the semen is the active, and the menstrual blood the passive, principle. Attractive, alterative, and formative faculties of the semen. Embryogeny is naturally followed by growth; these two functions distinguished.

Pg xlvii

CHAPTER [IV](#)

Unjustified claim by Erasistrateans that their founder had associations with the Peripatetic (Aristotelian) school. The characteristic physiological tenets of that school (which were all anticipated by Hippocrates) in no way agree with those of Erasistratus, save that both recognize the purposefulness of Nature; in practice, however, Erasistratus assumed numerous exceptions to this principle. Difficulty of understanding why he rejected the biological principle of attraction in favour of anatomical factors.

CHAPTER [V](#)

A further difficulty raised by Erasistratus's statement regarding secretion of bile in the liver.

CHAPTER [VI](#)

The same holds with nutrition. Even if we grant that veins may obtain their nutrient blood by virtue of the *horror vacui* (chap. i.), how could this explain the nutrition of nerves?

Erasistratus's hypothesis of minute elemental nerves and vessels within the ordinary visible nerves simply throws the difficulty further back. And is Erasistratus's minute "simple" nerve susceptible of further analysis, as the Atomists would assume? If so, this is opposed to the conception of a constructive and artistic Nature which Erasistratus himself shares with Hippocrates and the writer. And if his minute nerve is really elementary and not further divisible, then it cannot, according to his own showing, contain a cavity; therefore the *horror vacui* does not apply to it. And how could this principle apply to the restoration to its original bulk of a part which had become thin through disease, where more matter must become attached than runs away? A quotation from Erasistratus shows that he did acknowledge an "attraction," although not exactly in the Hippocratic sense.

Pg xlvi

CHAPTER VII

In the last resort, the ultimate living elements (Erasistratus's *simple vessels*) must draw in their food by virtue of an inherent attractive faculty like that which the lodestone exerts on iron. Thus the process of anadosis, from beginning to end, can be explained without assuming a *horror vacui*.

CHAPTER VIII

Erasistratus's disregard for the humours. In respect to excessive formation of bile, however, prevention is better than cure: accordingly we must consider its pathology. Does blood pre-exist in the food, or does it come into existence in the body? Erasistratus's purely anatomical explanation of *dropsy*. He entirely avoids the question of the four qualities (*e.g.* the importance of innate heat) in the generation of the humours, etc. Yet the problem of blood-production is no less important than that of gastric digestion. Proof that bile does not pre-exist in the food. The four fundamental qualities of Hippocrates and Aristotle. How the humours are formed from food taken into the veins: when heat is in proportionate amount, blood results; when in excess, bile; when deficient, phlegm. Various conditions determining cold or warm temperaments. The four primary diseases result each from excess of one of the four qualities. Erasistratus unwillingly acknowledges this when he ascribes the indigestion occurring in fever to *impaired function* of the stomach. For what causes this *functio laesa*? Proof that it is the fever (excess of innate heat).

If, then, heat plays so important a part in abnormal functioning, so must it also in normal (*i.e.* causes of eucrasia involved in those of dyscrasia, of physiology in those of pathology). A like argument explains the *genesis of the humours*. Addition of warmth to things already warm makes them bitter; thus honey turns to bile in people who are already warm; where warmth deficient, as in old people, it turns to useful blood. This is a proof that bile does not pre-exist, as such, in the food.

Pg xlix

CHAPTER IX

The *functions of organs* also depend on the way in which the four qualities are mixed—*e.g.* the contracting function of the stomach. Treatment only possible when we know the *causes* of errors of function. The Erasistrateans practically Empiricists in this respect. On an appreciation of the meaning of a *dyscrasia* follows naturally the Hippocratic principle of treating opposites by opposites (*e.g.* cooling the over-heated stomach, warming it when chilled, etc.). Useless in treatment to know merely the function of each organ; we must know the *bodily condition* which upsets this function. Blood is warm and moist. Yellow bile is warm and (virtually, though not apparently) dry. Phlegm is cold and moist. The fourth possible combination (cold and dry) is represented by *black bile*. For the clearing out of this humour from the blood, Nature has provided the spleen—an organ which, according to Erasistratus, fulfils no purpose. Proof of the importance of the spleen is the jaundice, toxæmia, etc., occurring when it is diseased. Erasistratus's failure to mention the views of leading authorities on this organ shows the hopelessness of his position. The Hippocratic view has now been demonstrated deductively and inductively. The classical view as to the generation of the humours. Normal and pathological forms of yellow and black bile. Part played by the *innate heat* in their production. Other kinds of bile are merely transition-stages between these extreme types. Abnormal forms removed by liver and spleen respectively. Phlegm, however, does not need a special excretory organ, as it can undergo entire metabolism in the body.

Need for studying the works of the Ancients carefully, in order to reach a proper understanding of this subject.

Pg 1

BOOK III

CHAPTER I

A recapitulation of certain points previously demonstrated. Every part of the animal has an attractive and an alterative (assimilative) faculty; it attracts the nutrient juice which is proper to it. Assimilation is preceded by adhesion (*prosthesis*) and that again, by application (*prosthesis*). Application the goal of attraction. It would not, however, be followed by adhesion and assimilation if each part did not also possess a faculty for *retaining in position* the nutriment which has been applied. *A priori* necessity for this *retentive* faculty.

CHAPTER II

The same faculty to be proved *a posteriori*. Its corresponding *function* (*i.e.* the activation of this faculty or potentiality) well seen in the large hollow organs, notably the uterus and stomach.

CHAPTER III

Exercise of the retentive faculty particularly well seen in the uterus. Its object is to allow the embryo to attain full development; this being completed, a new faculty—the expulsive—hitherto quiescent, comes into play. Characteristic signs and symptoms of pregnancy. Tight grip of uterus on growing embryo, and accurate closure of os uteri during operation of the retentive faculty. Dilatation of os and expulsive activities of uterus at full term, or when foetus dies. Prolapse from undue exercise of this faculty. *Rôle* of the midwife. Accessory muscles in parturition.

CHAPTER IV

Pg li Same two faculties seen in stomach. *Gurglings* or *borborygmi* show that this organ is weak and is not gripping its contents tightly enough. Undue delay of food in a weak stomach proved not to be due to narrowness of pylorus: length of stay depends on whether *digestion* (another instance of the characteristically vital process of *alteration*) has taken place or not. Erasistratus wrong in attributing digestion merely to the mechanical action of the stomach walls. When digestion completed, then pylorus opens and allows contents to pass downwards, just as os uteri when development of embryo completed.

CHAPTER V

If attraction and elimination always proceeded *pari passu*, the content of these hollow organs (including gall-bladder and urinary bladder) would never vary in amount. A *retentive* faculty, therefore, also logically needed. Its existence demonstrated. Expulsion determined by qualitative and quantitative changes of contents. "Diarrhoea" of stomach. Vomiting.

CHAPTER VI

Every organic part has an *appetite* and *aversion* for the qualities which are appropriate and foreign to it respectively. Attraction necessarily leads to a certain *benefit* received. This again necessitates *retention*.

CHAPTER VII

Pg lii Interaction between two bodies; the stronger masters the weaker; a deleterious drug masters the forces of the body, whereas food is mastered by them; this mastery is an *alteration*, and the amount of alteration varies with the different organs; thus a partial alteration is effected in mouth by saliva, but much greater in stomach, where not only gastric juice, but also bile, pneuma, innate heat (*i.e.* oxidation?), and other powerful factors are brought to bear on it; need of considerable alteration in stomach as a transition-stage between food and blood; appearance of faeces in intestine another proof of great alteration effected in stomach. Asclepiades's denial of real qualitative change in stomach rebutted. Erasistratus's denial that digestion in any way resembles a *boiling* process comes from his taking words too literally.

CHAPTER VIII

Erasistratus denies that the stomach exerts any pull in the act of swallowing. That he is wrong, however, is proved by the anatomical structure of the stomach—its inner coat with longitudinal fibres obviously acts as a *vis a fronte* (attraction), whilst its outer coat exercises through the contraction of its circular fibres a *vis a tergo* (propulsion); the latter also comes into play in vomiting. The stomach uses the oesophagus as a kind of hand, to draw in its food with. The functions of the two coats proved also by vivisection. Swallowing cannot be attributed merely to the force of gravity.

CHAPTER IX

These four faculties which subserve nutrition are thus apparent in many different parts of the body.

CHAPTER X

Need for elaborating the statements of the ancient physicians. Superiority of Ancients to Moderns. This state of affairs can only be rectified by a really efficient education of youth. The chief requisites of such an education.

CHAPTER XI

For the sake of the few who really wish truth, the argument will be continued. A third kind of fibre—the *oblique*—subserves *retention*; the way in which this fibre is disposed in different coats.

CHAPTER XII

The factor which brings the expulsive faculty into action is essentially a condition of the organ or its contents which is the reverse of that which determined attraction. Analogy between abortion and normal parturition. Whatever produces *discomfort* must be expelled. That discomfort also determines expulsion of contents from gall-bladder is not so evident as in the case of stomach, uterus, urinary bladder, etc., but can be logically demonstrated.

CHAPTER XIII

Expulsion takes place through the same channel as attraction (*e.g.*, in stomach, gall-bladder, uterus). Similarly the delivery (*anadosis*) of nutriment to the liver from the food-canal *viâ* the mesenteric veins may have its direction reversed. Continuous give-and-take between different parts of the body; superior strength of certain parts is natural, of others acquired. When liver contains abundant food and stomach depleted, latter may draw on former; this occurs when animal can get nothing to eat, and so prevents starvation. Similarly, when one part becomes over-distended, it tends to deposit its excess in some weaker part near it; this passes it on to some still weaker part, which cannot get rid of it; hence *deposits* of various kinds. Further instances of reversal of the normal direction of anadosis from the food canal through the veins. Such reversal of functions would in any case be expected *a priori*. In the vomiting of intestinal obstruction, matter may be carried backwards all the way from the intestine to the mouth; not surprising, therefore, that, under certain circumstances, food-material might be driven right back from the skin-surface to the alimentary canal (*e.g.* in excessive chilling of surface); not much needed to determine this reversal of direction. Action of purgative drugs upon terminals of veins; one part draws from another until whole body participates; similarly in intestinal obstruction, each part passes on the irritating substance to its weaker neighbour. Reversal of direction of flow occurs not merely on occasion but also constantly (as in arteries, lungs, heart, etc.). The various stages of normal nutrition described. Why the stomach sometimes draws back the nutriment it had passed on to portal veins and liver. A similar ebb and flow in relation to the spleen. Comparison of the parts of the body to a lot of animals at a feast. The valves of the heart are a provision of Nature to prevent this otherwise inevitable regurgitation, though even they are not quite efficient.

Pg liv

CHAPTER XIV

The superficial arteries, when they dilate, draw in air from the atmosphere, and the deeper ones a fine, vaporous blood from the veins and heart. Lighter matter such as air will always be drawn in preference to heavier; this is why the arteries in the food-canal draw in practically none of the nutrient matter contained in it.

CHAPTER XV

The two kinds of attraction—the mechanical attraction of dilating bellows and the “physical” (vital) attraction by living tissue of nutrient matter which is specifically allied or appropriate to it. The former kind—that resulting from *horror vacui*—acts primarily on light matter, whereas vital attraction has no essential concern with such mechanical factors. A hollow organ exercises, by virtue of its cavity, the former kind of attraction, and by virtue of the living tissue of its walls, the second kind. Application of this to question of contents of arteries; *anastomoses of arteries and veins*. *Foramina in interventricular septum of heart*, allowing some blood to pass from right to left ventricle. Large size of aorta probably due to fact that it not merely carries the pneuma received from the lungs, but also some of the blood which percolates through septum from right ventricle. Thus arteries carry not merely pneuma, but also some light vaporous blood, which certain parts need more than the ordinary thick blood of the veins. The organic parts must have their blood-supply sufficiently near to allow them to absorb it; comparison with an irrigation system in a garden. Details of the process of nutrition in the ultimate specific tissues; some are nourished from the blood directly; in others a series of intermediate stages must precede complete assimilation; for example, marrow is an intermediate stage between blood and bone.

Pg lv

From the generalisations arrived at in the present work we can deduce the explanation of all kinds of particular phenomena; an instance is given, showing the co-operation of various factors previously discussed.

ON THE NATURAL FACULTIES⁵

BOOK I

I

Since feeling and voluntary motion are peculiar to animals, whilst growth and nutrition are common to plants as well, we may look on the former as effects⁶ of the *soul*⁷ and the latter as effects of the *nature*.⁸ And if there be anyone who allows a share in soul to plants as well, and separates the two kinds of soul, naming the kind in question *vegetative*, and the other *sensory*, this person is not saying anything else, although his language is somewhat unusual. We, however, for our part, are convinced that the chief merit of language is clearness, and we know that nothing detracts so much from this as do unfamiliar terms; accordingly we employ those terms which the bulk of people are accustomed to use, and we say that animals are governed at once by their soul and by their nature, and plants by their nature alone, and that growth and nutrition are the effects of nature, not of soul.

II

Thus we shall enquire, in the course of this treatise, from what *faculties* these effects themselves, as well as any other effects of nature which there may be, take their origin.

First, however, we must distinguish and explain clearly the various terms which we are going to use in this treatise, and to what things we apply them; and this will prove to be not merely an explanation of terms but at the same time a demonstration of the effects of nature.

When, therefore, such and such a body undergoes no change from its existing state, we say that it is *at rest*; but, if it departs from this in any respect we then say that in this respect it *undergoes motion*.⁹ Accordingly, when it departs in various ways from its pre-existing state, it will be said to undergo various kinds of motion. Thus, if that which is white becomes black, or what is black becomes white, it undergoes motion in respect to *colour*; or if what was previously sweet now becomes bitter, or, conversely, from being bitter now becomes sweet, it will be said to undergo motion in respect to *flavour*; to both of these instances, as well as to those previously mentioned, we shall apply the term *qualitative motion*. And further, it is not only things which are altered in regard to colour and flavour which, we say, undergo motion; when a warm thing becomes cold, and a cold warm, here, too we speak of its undergoing motion; similarly also when anything moist becomes dry, or dry moist. Now, the common term which we apply to all these cases is *alteration*.

This is one kind of motion. But there is another kind which occurs in bodies which change their position, or as we say, pass from one place to another; the name of this is *transference*.¹⁰

These two kinds of motion, then, are simple and primary, while compounded from them we have *growth* and *decay*,¹¹ as when a small thing becomes bigger, or a big thing smaller, each retaining at the same time its particular form. And two other kinds of motion are *genesis* and *destruction*,¹² genesis being a coming into existence,¹³ and destruction being the opposite.

Now, common to all kinds of motion is *change from the pre-existing state*, while common to all conditions of rest is *retention of the pre-existing state*. The Sophists, however, while allowing that bread in turning into blood becomes changed as regards sight, taste, and touch, will not agree that this change occurs in reality. Thus some of them hold that all such phenomena are tricks and illusions of our senses; the senses, they say, are affected now in one way, now in another, whereas the underlying substance does not admit of any of these changes to which the names are given. Others (such as Anaxagoras)¹⁴ will have it that the qualities do exist in it, but that they are unchangeable and immutable from eternity to eternity, and that these apparent alterations are brought about by *separation* and *combination*.

Now, if I were to go out of my way to confute these people, my subsidiary task would be greater than my main one. Thus, if they do not know all that has been written, "On Complete Alteration of Substance"¹⁵ by Aristotle, and after him by Chrysippus,¹⁶ I must beg of them to make themselves familiar with these men's writings. If, however, they know these, and yet willingly prefer the worse views to the better, they will doubtless consider my arguments foolish also. I have shown elsewhere that these opinions were shared by Hippocrates, who lived much earlier than Aristotle. In fact, of all those known to us who have been both physicians and philosophers Hippocrates was the first who took in hand to demonstrate that there are, in all, four

Pg 5
[Greek text](#)Pg 7
[Greek text](#)Pg 9
[Greek text](#)

mutually interacting *qualities*, and that to the operation of these is due the genesis and destruction of all things that come into and pass out of being. Nay, more; Hippocrates was also the first to recognise that all these qualities undergo an intimate mingling with one another; and at least the beginnings of the proofs to which Aristotle later set his hand are to be found first in the writings of Hippocrates.

As to whether we are to suppose that the *substances* as well as their *qualities* undergo this intimate mingling, as Zeno of Citium afterwards declared, I do not think it necessary to go further into this question in the present treatise;¹⁷ for immediate purposes we only need to recognize the *complete alteration of substance*. In this way, nobody will suppose that bread represents a kind of meeting-place¹⁸ for bone, flesh, nerve, and all the other parts, and that each of these subsequently becomes separated in the body and goes to join its own kind;¹⁹ before any separation takes place, the whole of the bread obviously becomes blood; (at any rate, if a man takes no other food for a prolonged period, he will have blood enclosed in his veins all the same).²⁰ And clearly this disproves the view of those who consider the elements²¹ unchangeable, as also, for that matter, does the oil which is entirely used up in the flame of the lamp, or the faggots which, in a somewhat longer time, turn into fire.

Pg 11
[Greek text](#)

I said, however, that I was not going to enter into an argument with these people, and it was only because the example was drawn from the subject-matter of medicine, and because I need it for the present treatise, that I have mentioned it. We shall then, as I said, renounce our controversy with them, since those who wish may get a good grasp of the views of the ancients from our own personal investigations into these matters.

The discussion which follows we shall devote entirely, as we originally proposed, to an enquiry into the number and character of the *faculties* of Nature, and what is the effect which each naturally produces. Now, of course, I mean by an effect²² that which has already come into existence and has been completed by the *activity*²³ of these faculties—for example, blood, flesh, or nerve. And *activity* is the name I give to the active change or *motion*, and the *cause* of this I call a *faculty*. Thus, when food turns into blood, the motion of the food is passive, and that of the vein active. Similarly, when the limbs have their position altered, it is the muscle which produces, and the bones which undergo the motion. In these cases I call the motion of the vein and of the muscle an *activity*, and that of the food and the bones a *symptom* or *affection*,²⁴ since the first group undergoes *alteration* and the second group is merely *transported*. One might, therefore, also speak of the *activity* as an *effect* of Nature²⁵—for example, digestion, absorption,²⁶ blood-production; one could not, however, in every case call the effect an activity; thus flesh is an effect of Nature, but it is, of course, not an activity. It is, therefore, clear that one of these terms is used in two senses, but not the other.

Pg 13
[Greek text](#)

III

It appears to me, then, that the vein, as well as each of the other parts, functions in such and such a way according to the manner in which *the four qualities*²⁷ are mixed. There are, however, a considerable number of not undistinguished men—philosophers and physicians—who refer action to the Warm and the Cold, and who subordinate to these, as passive, the Dry and the Moist; Aristotle, in fact, was the first who attempted to bring back the causes of the various special activities to these principles, and he was followed later by the Stoic school. These latter, of course, could logically make active principles of the Warm and Cold, since they refer the change of the elements themselves into one another to certain *diffusions* and *condensations*.²⁸ This does not hold of Aristotle, however; seeing that he employed the four qualities to explain the genesis of the elements, he ought properly to have also referred the causes of all the special activities to these. How is it that he uses the four qualities in his book “On Genesis and Destruction,” whilst in his “Meteorology,” his “Problems,” and many other works he uses the two only? Of course, if anyone were to maintain that in the case of animals and plants the Warm and Cold are *more* active, the Dry and Moist *less* so, he might perhaps have even Hippocrates on his side; but if he were to say that this happens in all cases, he would, I imagine, lack support, not merely from Hippocrates, but even from Aristotle himself—if, at least, Aristotle chose to remember what he himself taught us in his work “On Genesis and Destruction,” not as a matter of simple statement, but with an accompanying demonstration. I have, however, also investigated these questions, in so far as they are of value to a physician, in my work “On Temperaments.”

Pg 15
[Greek text](#)

IV

The so-called *blood-making*²⁹ faculty in the veins, then, as well as all the other faculties, fall within the category of relative concepts; primarily because the faculty is the cause of the activity, but also, accidentally, because it is the cause of the effect. But if the cause is relative to something—for it is the cause of what results from it, and of nothing else—it is obvious that the faculty also falls into the category of the

Pg 17
[Greek text](#)

relative; and so long as we are ignorant of the true essence of the cause which is operating, we call it a *faculty*. Thus we say that there exists in the veins a blood-making faculty, as also a digestive³⁰ faculty in the stomach, a pulsatile³¹ faculty in the heart, and in each of the other parts a special faculty corresponding to the function or activity of that part. If, therefore, we are to investigate methodically the number and kinds of faculties, we must begin with the effects; for each of these effects comes from a certain activity, and each of these again is preceded by a cause.

V

The effects of Nature, then, while the animal is still being formed in the womb, are all the different *parts* of its body; and after it has been born, an effect in which all parts share is the progress of each to its full size, and thereafter its maintenance of itself as long as possible.

The activities corresponding to the three effects mentioned are necessarily three—one to each—namely, Genesis, Growth, and Nutrition. Genesis, however, is not a simple activity of Nature, but is compounded of *alteration* and of *shaping*.³² That is to say, in order that bone, nerve, veins, and all other [tissues] may come into existence, the *underlying substance* from which the animal springs must be *altered*; and in order that the substance so altered may acquire its appropriate shape and position, its cavities, outgrowths, attachments, and so forth, it has to undergo a *shaping* or *formative* process.³³ One would be justified in calling this substance which undergoes alteration the *material* of the animal, just as wood is the material of a ship, and wax of an image.

Growth is an increase and expansion in length, breadth, and thickness of the solid parts of the animal (those which have been subjected to the moulding or shaping process). *Nutrition* is an addition to these, without expansion.

VI

Let us speak then, in the first place, of Genesis, which, as we have said, results from *alteration* together with *shaping*.

The seed having been cast into the womb or into the earth (for there is no difference),³⁴ then, after a certain definite period, a great number of parts become constituted in the substance which is being generated; these differ as regards moisture, dryness, coldness and warmth,³⁵ and in all the other qualities which naturally derive therefrom.³⁶ These derivative qualities, you are acquainted with, if you have given any sort of scientific consideration to the question of genesis and destruction. For, first and foremost after the qualities mentioned come the other so-called *tangible* distinctions, and after them those which appeal to taste, smell, and sight. Now, tangible distinctions are hardness and softness, viscosity, friability, lightness, heaviness, density, rarity, smoothness, roughness, thickness and thinness; all of these have been duly mentioned by Aristotle.³⁷ And of course you know those which appeal to taste, smell, and sight. Therefore, if you wish to know which alternative faculties are primary and elementary, they are moisture, dryness, coldness, and warmth, and if you wish to know which ones arise from the combination of these, they will be found to be in each animal of a number corresponding to its *sensible elements*. The name *sensible elements* is given to all the *homogeneous*³⁸ parts of the body, and these are to be detected not by any system, but by personal observation of dissections.³⁹

Now Nature constructs bone, cartilage, nerve, membrane, ligament, vein, and so forth, at the first stage of the animal's genesis,⁴⁰ employing at this task a faculty which is, in general terms, generative and alterative, and, in more detail, warming, chilling, drying, or moistening; or such as spring from the blending of these, for example, the bone-producing, nerve-producing, and cartilage-producing faculties⁴¹ (since for the sake of clearness these names must be used as well).

Now the peculiar⁴² flesh of the liver is of this kind as well, also that of the spleen, that of the kidneys, that of the lungs, and that of the heart; so also the proper substance of the brain, stomach, gullet, intestines, and uterus is a *sensible element*, of similar parts all through, simple, and uncompounded. That is to say, if you remove from each of the organs mentioned its arteries, veins, and nerves,⁴³ the substance remaining in each organ is, from the point of view of the senses, simple and elementary. As regards those organs consisting of two dissimilar *coats*,⁴⁴ of which each is simple, of these organs the coats are the elements—for example, the coats of the stomach, oesophagus, intestines, and arteries; each of these two coats has an alterative faculty peculiar to it, which has engendered it from the menstrual blood of the mother. Thus the *special* alterative faculties in each animal are of the same number as the elementary parts⁴⁵; and further, the *activities* must necessarily correspond each to one of the special parts, just as each part has its special *use*—for example, those ducts which extend from the kidneys into the bladder, and which are called *ureters*; for these are not arteries, since they do not pulsate nor do they

Pg 19
[Greek text](#)

Pg 21
[Greek text](#)

Pg 23
[Greek text](#)

consist of two coats; and they are not veins, since they neither contain blood, nor do their coats in any way resemble those of veins; from nerves they differ still more than from the structures mentioned.

Pg 25
[Greek text](#)

“What, then, are they?” someone asks—as though every part must necessarily be either an artery, a vein, a nerve, or a complex of these,⁴⁶ and as though the truth were not what I am now stating, namely, that every one of the various organs has its own particular substance. For in fact the two bladders—that which receives the urine, and that which receives the yellow bile—not only differ from all other organs, but also from one another. Further, the ducts which spring out like kinds of conduits from the gall-bladder and which pass into the liver have no resemblance either to arteries, veins or nerves. But these parts have been treated at a greater length in my work “On the Anatomy of Hippocrates,” as well as elsewhere.

As for the actual substance of the coats of the stomach, intestine, and uterus, each of these has been rendered what it is by a special alterative faculty of Nature; while the bringing of these together,⁴⁷ the combination therewith of the structures which are inserted into them, the outgrowth into the intestine,⁴⁸ the shape of the inner cavities, and the like, have all been determined by a faculty which we call the shaping or formative faculty⁴⁹; this faculty we also state to be *artistic*—nay, the best and highest art—doing everything for some purpose, so that there is nothing ineffective or superfluous, or capable of being better disposed. This, however, I shall demonstrate in my work “On the Use of Parts.”

Pg 27
[Greek text](#)

VII

Passing now to the faculty of Growth⁵⁰ let us first mention that this, too, is present in the foetus *in utero* as is also the nutritive faculty, but that at that stage these two faculties are, as it were, *handmaids* to those already mentioned,⁵¹ and do not possess in themselves supreme authority. When, however, the animal⁵² has attained its complete size, then, during the whole period following its birth and until the acme is reached, the faculty of growth is predominant, while the alterative and nutritive faculties are accessory—in fact, act as its handmaids. What, then, is the property of this faculty of growth? To extend in every direction that which has already come into existence—that is to say, the solid parts of the body, the arteries, veins, nerves, bones, cartilages, membranes, ligaments, and the various *coats* which we have just called elementary, homogeneous, and simple. And I shall state in what way they gain this extension in every direction, first giving an illustration for the sake of clearness.

Children take the bladders of pigs, fill them with air, and then rub them on ashes near the fire, so as to warm, but not to injure them. This is a common game in the district of Ionia, and among not a few other nations. As they rub, they sing songs, to a certain measure, time, and rhythm, and all their words are an exhortation to the bladder to increase in size. When it appears to them fairly well distended, they again blow air into it and expand it further; then they rub it again. This they do several times, until the bladder seems to them to have become large enough. Now, clearly, in these doings of the children, the more the interior cavity of the bladder increases in size, the thinner, necessarily, does its substance become. But, if the children were able to bring nourishment to this thin part, then they would make the bladder big in the same way that Nature does. As it is, however, they cannot do what Nature does, for to imitate this is beyond the power not only of children, but of any one soever; it is a property of Nature alone.

Pg 29
[Greek text](#)

It will now, therefore, be clear to you that *nutrition* is a necessity for growing things. For if such bodies were distended, but not at the same time nourished, they would take on a false appearance of growth, not a true growth. And further, to be distended *in all directions* belongs only to bodies whose growth is directed by Nature; for those which are distended by us undergo this distension in one direction but grow less in the others; it is impossible to find a body which will remain entire and not be torn through whilst we stretch it in the three dimensions. Thus Nature alone has the power to expand a body in all directions so that it remains unruptured and preserves completely its previous form.

Such then is *growth*, and it cannot occur without the nutriment which flows to the part and is worked up into it.

Pg 31
[Greek text](#)

VIII

We have, then, it seems, arrived at the subject of Nutrition, which is the third and remaining consideration which we proposed at the outset. For, when the matter which flows to each part of the body in the form of nutriment is being worked up into it, this activity is *nutrition*, and its cause is the *nutritive faculty*. Of course, the kind of activity here involved is also an *alteration*, but not an alteration like that occurring at the stage of *genesis*.⁵³ For in the latter case something comes into existence which did not exist previously, while in nutrition the inflowing material becomes assimilated to that which has already come into existence. Therefore, the former kind of

alteration has with reason been termed *genesis*, and the latter, *assimilation*.

IX

Now, since the three faculties of Nature have been exhaustively dealt with, and the animal would appear not to need any others (being possessed of the means for growing, for attaining completion, and for maintaining itself as long a time as possible), this treatise might seem to be already complete, and to constitute an exposition of all the faculties of Nature. If, however, one considers that it has not yet touched upon any of *the parts* of the animal (I mean the stomach, intestines, liver, and the like), and that it has not dealt with the faculties resident in these, it will seem as though merely a kind of introduction had been given to the practical parts of our teaching. For the whole matter is as follows: Genesis, growth, and nutrition are the first, and, so to say, the principal effects of Nature; similarly also the faculties which produce these effects—the first faculties—are three in number, and are the most dominating of all. But as has already been shown, these need the service both of each other, and of yet different faculties. Now, these which the faculties of generation and growth require have been stated. I shall now say what ones the nutritive faculty requires.

Pg 33
[Greek text](#)

X

For I believe that I shall prove that the organs which have to do with the disposal⁵⁴ of the nutriment, as also their faculties, exist for the sake of this *nutritive faculty*. For since the action of this faculty⁵⁵ is *assimilation*, and it is impossible for anything to be assimilated by, and to change into anything else unless they already possess a certain *community and affinity* in their qualities,⁵⁶ therefore, in the first place, any animal cannot naturally derive nourishment from any kind of food, and secondly, even in the case of those from which it can do so, it cannot do this at once. Therefore, by reason of this law,⁵⁷ every animal needs several organs for *altering* the nutriment. For in order that the yellow may become red, and the red yellow, one simple process of alteration is required, but in order that the white may become black, and the black white, all the intermediate stages are needed.⁵⁸ So also, a thing which is very soft cannot all at once become very hard, nor *vice versa*; nor, similarly can anything which has a very bad smell suddenly become quite fragrant, nor again, can the converse happen.

Pg 35
[Greek text](#)

How, then, could blood ever turn into bone, without having first become, as far as possible, thickened and white? And how could bread turn into blood without having gradually parted with its whiteness and gradually acquired redness? Thus it is quite easy for blood to become flesh; for, if Nature thicken it to such an extent that it acquires a certain consistency and ceases to be fluid, it thus becomes original newly-formed flesh; but in order that blood may turn into bone, much time is needed and much elaboration and transformation of the blood. Further, it is quite clear that bread, and, more particularly lettuce, beet, and the like, require a great deal of alteration in order to become blood.

This, then, is one reason why there are so many organs concerned in the alteration of food. A second reason is the nature of the *superfluities*.⁵⁹ For, as we are unable to draw any nourishment from grass, although this is possible for cattle, similarly we can derive nourishment from radishes, albeit not to the same extent as from meat; for almost the whole of the latter is mastered by our natures⁶⁰; it is transformed and altered and constituted useful blood; but, in the radish, what is appropriate⁶¹ and able of being altered (and that only with difficulty, and with much labour) is the very smallest part; almost the whole of it is surplus matter, and passes through the digestive organs, only a very little being taken up into the veins as blood—nor is this itself entirely utilisable blood. Nature, therefore had need of a second process of separation for the superfluities in the veins. Moreover, these superfluities need, on the one hand, certain fresh routes to conduct them to the outlets, so that they may not spoil the useful substances, and they also need certain *reservoirs*, as it were, in which they are collected till they reach a sufficient quantity, and are then discharged.

Pg 37
[Greek text](#)

Thus, then, you have discovered bodily parts of a second kind, consecrated in this case to the [removal of the] superfluities of the food. There is, however, also a third kind, for carrying the pabulum in every direction; these are like a number of roads intersecting the whole body.

Thus there is one entrance—that through the mouth—for all the various articles of food. What receives nourishment, however, is not one single part, but a great many parts, and these widely separated; do not be surprised, therefore, at the abundance of organs which Nature has created for the purpose of nutrition. For those of them which have to do with alteration prepare the nutriment suitable for each part; others separate out the superfluities; some pass these along, others store them up, others excrete them; some, again, are paths for the transit⁶² in all directions of the *utilisable*

Pg 39
[Greek text](#)

juices. So, if you wish to gain a thorough acquaintance with all the faculties of Nature,⁶³ you will have to consider each one of these organs.

Now in giving an account of these we must begin with those effects of Nature, together with their corresponding parts and faculties, which are closely connected with the purpose to be achieved.⁶⁴

XI

Let us once more, then, recall the actual purpose for which Nature has constructed all these parts. Its name, as previously stated, is *nutrition*, and the definition corresponding to the name is: *an assimilation of that which nourishes to that which receives nourishments*.⁶⁵ And in order that this may come about, we must assume a preliminary process of *adhesion*,⁶⁶ and for that, again, one of *presentation*.⁶⁷ For whenever the juice which is destined to nourish any of the parts of the animal is emitted from the vessels, it is in the first place dispersed all through this part, next it is presented, and next it adheres, and becomes completely assimilated.

The so-called white [leprosy] shows the difference between assimilation and adhesion, in the same way that the kind of dropsy which some people call *anasarca* clearly distinguishes presentation from adhesion. For, of course, the genesis of such a dropsy does not come about as do some of the conditions of atrophy and wasting,⁶⁸ from an insufficient supply of moisture; the flesh is obviously moist enough,—in fact it is thoroughly saturated,—and each of the solid parts of the body is in a similar condition. While, however, the nutriment conveyed to the part does undergo presentation, it is still too watery, and is not properly transformed into a *juice*,⁶⁹ nor has it acquired that viscous and agglutinative quality which results from the operation of *innate heat*;⁷⁰ therefore, adhesion cannot come about, since, owing to this abundance of thin, crude liquid, the pabulum runs off and easily slips away from the solid parts of the body. In white [leprosy], again, there is adhesion of the nutriment but no real assimilation. From this it is clear that what I have just said is correct, namely, that in that part which is to be nourished there must first occur presentation, next adhesion, and finally assimilation proper.

Strictly speaking, then, *nutriment* is that which is actually nourishing, while the *quasi-nutriment* which is not yet nourishing (*e.g.* matter which is undergoing adhesion or presentation) is not, strictly speaking, nutriment, but is so called only by an equivocation. Also, that which is still contained in the veins, and still more, that which is in the stomach, from the fact that it is destined to nourish if properly elaborated, has been called “nutriment.” Similarly we call the various kinds of food “nutriment,” not because they are already nourishing the animal, nor because they exist in the same state as the material which actually is nourishing it, but because they are able and destined to nourish it if they be properly elaborated.

This was also what Hippocrates said, viz., “Nutriment is what is engaged in nourishing, as also is quasi-nutriment, and what is destined to be nutriment.” For to that which is already being assimilated he gave the name of *nutriment*; to the similar material which is being presented or becoming adherent, the name of *quasi-nutriment*; and to everything else—that is, contained in the stomach and veins—the name of *destined nutriment*.

XII

It is quite clear, therefore, that nutrition must necessarily be a process of assimilation of that which is nourishing to that which is being nourished. Some, however, say that this assimilation does not occur in reality, but is merely apparent; these are the people who think that Nature is not artistic, that she does not show forethought for the animal’s welfare, and that she has absolutely no native powers whereby she alters some substances, attracts others, and discharges others.

Now, speaking generally, there have arisen the following two sects in medicine and philosophy among those who have made any definite pronouncement regarding Nature. I speak, of course, of such of them as know what they are talking about, and who realize the logical sequence of their hypotheses, and stand by them; as for those who cannot understand even this, but who simply talk any nonsense that comes to their tongues, and who do not remain definitely attached either to one sect or the other—such people are not even worth mentioning.

What, then, are these sects, and what are the logical consequences of their hypotheses?⁷¹ The one class supposes that all substance which is subject to genesis and destruction is at once *continuous*⁷² and susceptible of *alteration*. The other school assumes substance to be unchangeable, unalterable, and sub-divided into fine particles, which are separated from one another by empty spaces.

All people, therefore, who can appreciate the logical sequence of an hypothesis hold that, according to the second teaching, there does not exist any substance or faculty

Pg 41
[Greek text](#)

Pg 43
[Greek text](#)

Pg 45
[Greek text](#)

peculiar either to Nature or to Soul,⁷³ but that these result from the way in which the primary corpuscles,⁷⁴ which are unaffected by change, come together. According to the first-mentioned teaching, on the other hand, Nature is not posterior to the corpuscles, but is a long way prior to them and older than they; and therefore in their view it is Nature which puts together the bodies both of plants and animals; and this she does by virtue of certain faculties which she possesses—these being, on the one hand, attractive and assimilative of what is appropriate, and, on the other, expulsive of what is foreign. Further, she skilfully moulds everything during the stage of genesis; and she also provides for the creatures after birth, employing here other faculties again, namely, one of affection and forethought for offspring, and one of sociability and friendship for kindred. According to the other school, none of these things exist in the natures⁷⁵ [of living things], nor is there in the soul any original innate idea, whether of agreement or difference, of separation or synthesis, of justice or injustice, of the beautiful or ugly; all such things, they say, arise in us *from sensation and through sensation*, and animals are steered by certain images and memories.

Pg 47
[Greek text](#)

Some of these people have even expressly declared that the soul possesses no reasoning faculty, but that we are led like cattle by the impression of our senses, and are unable to refuse or dissent from anything. In their view, obviously, courage, wisdom, temperance, and self-control are all mere nonsense, we do not love either each other or our offspring, nor do the gods care anything for us. This school also despises dreams, birds, omens, and the whole of astrology, subjects with which we have dealt at greater length in another work,⁷⁶ in which we discuss the views of Asclepiades the physician.⁷⁷ Those who wish to do so may familiarize themselves with these arguments, and they may also consider at this point which of the two roads lying before us is the better one to take. Hippocrates took the first-mentioned. According to this teaching, substance is one and is subject to *alteration*; there is a consensus in the movements of air and fluid throughout the whole body;⁷⁸ Nature acts throughout in an artistic and equitable manner, having certain faculties, by virtue of which each part of the body draws to itself the juice which is proper to it, and, having done so, attaches it to every portion of itself, and completely assimilates it; while such part of the juice as has not been mastered,⁷⁹ and is not capable of undergoing complete alteration and being assimilated to the part which is being nourished, is got rid of by yet another (an expulsive) faculty.

Pg 49
[Greek text](#)

XIII

Now the extent of exactitude and truth in the doctrines of Hippocrates may be gauged, not merely from the way in which his opponents are at variance with obvious facts, but also from the various subjects of natural research themselves—the functions of animals, and the rest. For those people who do not believe that there exists in any part of the animal a faculty for attracting *its own special quality*⁸⁰ are compelled repeatedly to deny obvious facts.⁸¹ For instance, Asclepiades, the physician,⁸² did this in the case of the kidneys. That these are organs for secreting [separating out] the urine, was the belief not only of Hippocrates, Diocles, Erasistratus, Praxagoras,⁸³ and all other physicians of eminence, but practically every butcher is aware of this, from the fact that he daily observes both the position of the kidneys and the duct (termed the ureter) which runs from each kidney into the bladder, and from this arrangement he infers their characteristic use and faculty. But, even leaving the butchers aside, all people who suffer either from frequent dysuria or from retention of urine call themselves “nephritics,”⁸⁴ when they feel pain in the loins and pass sandy matter in their water.

Pg 51
[Greek text](#)

I do not suppose that Asclepiades ever saw a stone which had been passed by one of these sufferers, or observed that this was preceded by a sharp pain in the region between kidneys and bladder as the stone traversed the ureter, or that, when the stone was passed, both the pain and the retention at once ceased. It is worth while, then, learning how his theory accounts for the presence of urine in the bladder, and one is forced to marvel at the ingenuity of a man who puts aside these broad, clearly visible routes,⁸⁵ and postulates others which are narrow, invisible—indeed, entirely imperceptible. His view, in fact, is that the fluid which we drink passes into the bladder by being resolved into vapours, and that, when these have been again condensed, it thus regains its previous form, and turns from vapour into fluid. He simply looks upon the bladder as a sponge or a piece of wool, and not as the perfectly compact and impervious body that it is, with two very strong coats. For if we say that the vapours pass through these coats, why should they not pass through the peritoneum⁸⁶ and the diaphragm, thus filling the whole abdominal cavity and thorax with water? “But,” says he, “of course the peritoneal coat is more impervious than the bladder, and this is why it keeps out the vapours, while the bladder admits them.” Yet if he had ever practised anatomy, he might have known that the outer coat of the bladder springs from the peritoneum and is essentially the same as it, and that the inner coat, which is peculiar to the bladder, is more than twice as thick as the former.

Pg 53
[Greek text](#)

Perhaps, however, it is not the thickness or thinness of the coats, but the *situation* of the bladder, which is the reason for the vapours being carried into it? On the contrary, even if it were probable for every other reason that the vapours accumulate there, yet the situation of the bladder would be enough in itself to prevent this. For the bladder is situated below, whereas vapours have a natural tendency to rise upwards; thus they would fill all the region of the thorax and lungs long before they came to the bladder.

But why do I mention the situation of the bladder, peritoneum, and thorax? For surely, when the vapours have passed through the coats of the stomach and intestines, it is in the space between these and the peritoneum⁸⁷ that they will collect and become liquefied (just as in dropsical subjects it is in this region that most of the water gathers).⁸⁸ Otherwise the vapours must necessarily pass straight forward through everything which in any way comes in contact with them, and will never come to a standstill. But, if this be assumed, then they will traverse not merely the peritoneum but also the epigastrium, and will become dispersed into the surrounding air; otherwise they will certainly collect under the skin.

Pg 55
[Greek text](#)

Even these considerations, however, our present-day Asclepiadeans attempt to answer, despite the fact that they always get soundly laughed at by all who happen to be present at their disputations on these subjects—so difficult an evil to get rid of is this sectarian partizanship, so excessively resistant to all cleansing processes, harder to heal than any itch!

Thus, one of our Sophists who is a thoroughly hardened disputer and as skilful a master of language as there ever was, once got into a discussion with me on this subject; so far from being put out of countenance by any of the above-mentioned considerations, he even expressed his surprise that I should try to overturn obvious facts by ridiculous arguments! “For,” said he, “one may clearly observe any day in the case of any bladder, that, if one fills it with water or air and then ties up its neck and squeezes it all round, it does not let anything out at any point, but accurately retains all its contents. And surely,” said he, “if there were any large and perceptible channels coming into it from the kidneys the liquid would run out through these when the bladder was squeezed, in the same way that it entered?”⁸⁹ Having abruptly made these and similar remarks in precise and clear tones, he concluded by jumping up and departing—leaving me as though I were quite incapable of finding any plausible answer!

Pg 57
[Greek text](#)

The fact is that those who are enslaved to their sects are not merely devoid of all sound knowledge, but they will not even stop to learn! Instead of listening, as they ought, to the reason why liquid can enter the bladder through the ureters, but is unable to go back again the same way,—instead of admiring Nature’s artistic skill⁹⁰—they refuse to learn; they even go so far as to scoff, and maintain that the kidneys, as well as many other things, have been made by Nature *for no purpose*.⁹¹ And some of them who had allowed themselves to be shown the ureters coming from the kidneys and becoming implanted in the bladder, even had the audacity to say that these also existed for no purpose; and others said that they were spermatic ducts, and that this was why they were inserted into the neck of the bladder and not into its cavity. When, therefore, we had demonstrated to them the real spermatic ducts⁹² entering the neck of the bladder lower down than the ureters, we supposed that, if we had not done so before, we would now at least draw them away from their false assumptions, and convert them forthwith to the opposite view. But even this they presumed to dispute, and said that it was not to be wondered at that the semen should remain longer in these latter ducts, these being more constricted, and that it should flow quickly down the ducts which came from the kidneys, seeing that these were well dilated. We were, therefore, further compelled to show them in a still living animal, the urine plainly running out through the ureters into the bladder; even thus we hardly hoped to check their nonsensical talk.

Pg 59
[Greek text](#)

Now the method of demonstration is as follows. One has to divide the peritoneum in front of the ureters, then secure these with ligatures, and next, having bandaged up the animal, let him go (for he will not continue to urinate). After this one loosens the external bandages and shows the bladder empty and the ureters quite full and distended—in fact almost on the point of rupturing; on removing the ligature from them, one then plainly sees the bladder becoming filled with urine.

When this has been made quite clear, then, before the animal urinates, one has to tie a ligature round his penis and then to squeeze the bladder all over; still nothing goes back through the ureters to the kidneys. Here, then, it becomes obvious that not only in a dead animal, but in one which is still living, the ureters are prevented from receiving back the urine from the bladder. These observations having been made, one now loosens the ligature from the animal’s penis and allows him to urinate, then again ligatures one of the ureters and leaves the other to discharge into the bladder. Allowing, then, some time to elapse, one now demonstrates that the ureter which was ligatured is obviously full and distended on the side next to the kidneys, while the other one—that from which the ligature had been taken—is itself flaccid, but has filled the bladder with urine. Then, again, one must divide the full ureter, and

demonstrate how the urine spurts out of it, like blood in the operation of venesection; and after this one cuts through the other also, and both being thus divided, one bandages up the animal externally. Then when enough time seems to have elapsed, one takes off the bandages; the bladder will now be found empty, and the whole region between the intestines and the peritoneum full of urine, as if the animal were suffering from dropsy. Now, if anyone will but test this for himself on an animal, I think he will strongly condemn the rashness of Asclepiades, and if he also learns the reason why nothing regurgitates from the bladder into the ureters, I think he will be persuaded by this also of the forethought and art shown by Nature in relation to animals.⁹³

Pg 61
[Greek text](#)

Now Hippocrates, who was the first known to us of all those who have been both physicians and philosophers inasmuch as he was the first to recognize what Nature effects, expresses his admiration of her, and is constantly singing her praises and calling her "just." Alone, he says, she suffices for the animal in every respect, performing of her own accord and without any teaching all that is required. Being such, she has, as he supposes, certain *faculties*, one attractive of what is appropriate,⁹⁴ and another eliminative of what is foreign, and she nourishes the animal, makes it grow, and expels its diseases by crisis.⁹⁵ Therefore he says that there is in our bodies a concordance in the movements of air and fluid, and that everything is in sympathy. According to Asclepiades, however, nothing is naturally in sympathy with anything else, all substance being divided and broken up into inharmonious elements and absurd "molecules." Necessarily, then, besides making countless other statements in opposition to plain fact, he was ignorant of Nature's faculties, both that attracting what is appropriate, and that expelling what is foreign. Thus he invented some wretched nonsense to explain blood-production and *anadosis*,⁹⁶ and, being utterly unable to find anything to say regarding the clearing-out⁹⁷ of superfluities, he did not hesitate to join issue with obvious facts, and, in this matter of urinary secretion, to deprive both the kidneys and the ureters of their activity, by assuming that there were certain invisible channels opening into the bladder. It was, of course, a grand and impressive thing to do, to mistrust the obvious, and to pin one's faith in things which could not be seen!

Pg 63
[Greek text](#)

Also, in the matter of the yellow bile, he makes an even grander and more spirited venture; for he says this is actually generated in the bile-ducts, not merely separated out.

How comes it, then, that in cases of jaundice two things happen at the same time—that the dejections contain absolutely no bile, and that the whole body becomes full of it? He is forced here again to talk nonsense, just as he did in regard to the urine. He also talks no less nonsense about the black bile and the spleen, not understanding what was said by Hippocrates; and he attempts in stupid—I might say insane—language, to contradict what he knows nothing about.

And what profit did he derive from these opinions from the point of view of treatment? He neither was able to cure a kidney ailment, nor jaundice, nor a disease of black bile, nor would he agree with the view held not merely by Hippocrates but by all men regarding drugs—that some of them purge away yellow bile, and others black, some again phlegm, and others the thin and watery superfluity⁹⁸; he held that all the substances evacuated⁹⁹ were *produced by the drugs themselves*, just as yellow bile is produced by the biliary passages! It matters nothing, according to this extraordinary man, whether we give a hydragogue or a cholagogue in a case of dropsy, for these all equally purge⁹⁹ and dissolve the body, and produce a solution having such and such an appearance, which did not exist as such before!¹⁰⁰

Pg 65
[Greek text](#)

Must we not, therefore, suppose he was either mad, or entirely unacquainted with practical medicine? For who does not know that if a drug for attracting phlegm be given in a case of jaundice it will not even evacuate four *cyathi*¹⁰¹ of phlegm? Similarly also if one of the hydragogues be given. A cholagogue, on the other hand, clears away a great quantity of bile, and the skin of patients so treated at once becomes clear. I myself have, in many cases, after treating the liver condition, then removed the disease by means of a single purgation; whereas, if one had employed a drug for removing phlegm one would have done no good.

Nor is Hippocrates the only one who knows this to be so, whilst those who take experience alone as their starting-point¹⁰² know otherwise; they, as well as all physicians who are engaged in the practice of medicine, are of this opinion. Asclepiades, however is an exception; he would hold it a betrayal of his assumed "elements"¹⁰³ to confess the truth about such matters. For if a single drug were to be discovered which attracted such and such a humour only, there would obviously be danger of the opinion gaining ground that there is in every body¹⁰⁴ a faculty which attracts its own particular quality. He therefore says that safflower,¹⁰⁵ the Cnidian berry,¹⁰⁶ and *Hippophaes*,¹⁰⁷ do not draw phlegm from the body, but actually make it. Moreover, he holds that the flower and scales of bronze, and burnt bronze itself, and germander,¹⁰⁸ and wild mastich¹⁰⁹ dissolve the body into water, and that dropsical patients derive benefit from these substances, not because they are purged by them, but because they are rid of substances which actually help to increase the disease;

Pg 67
[Greek text](#)

for, if the medicine does not evacuate¹¹⁰ the dropsical fluid contained in the body, but generates it, it aggravates the condition further. Moreover, scammony, according to the Asclepiadean argument, not only fails to evacuate¹¹⁰ the bile from the bodies of jaundiced subjects, but actually turns the useful blood into bile, and dissolves the body; in fact it does all manner of evil and increases the disease.

And yet this drug may be clearly seen to do good to numbers of people! "Yes," says he, "they derive benefit certainly, but merely in proportion to the evacuation." ... But if you give these cases a drug which draws off phlegm they will not be benefited. This is so obvious that even those who make experience alone their starting-point¹¹¹ are aware of it; and these people make it a cardinal point of their teaching to trust to no arguments, but only to what can be clearly seen. In this, then, they show good sense; whereas Asclepiades goes far astray in bidding us distrust our senses where obvious facts plainly overturn his hypotheses. Much better would it have been for him not to assail obvious facts, but rather to devote himself entirely to these.

Pg 69
[Greek text](#)

Is it, then, these facts only which are plainly irreconcilable with the views of Asclepiades? Is not also the fact that in summer yellow bile is evacuated in greater quantity by the same drugs, and in winter phlegm, and that in a young man more bile is evacuated, and in an old man more phlegm? Obviously each drug attracts something which already exists, and does not generate something previously non-existent. Thus if you give in the summer season a drug which attracts phlegm to a young man of a lean and warm habit, who has lived neither idly nor too luxuriously, you will with great difficulty evacuate a very small quantity of this humour, and you will do the man the utmost harm. On the other hand, if you give him a cholagogue, you will produce an abundant evacuation and not injure him at all.

Do we still, then, disbelieve that each drug attracts *that humour which is proper to it*?¹¹² Possibly the adherents of Asclepiades will assent to this—or rather, they will—not possibly, but certainly—declare that they disbelieve it, lest they should betray their darling prejudices.

Pg 71
[Greek text](#)

XIV

Let us pass on, then, again to another piece of nonsense; for the sophists do not allow one to engage in enquiries that are of any worth, albeit there are many such; they compel one to spend one's time in dissipating the fallacious arguments which they bring forward.

What, then, is this piece of nonsense? It has to do with the famous and far-renowned stone which draws iron [the lodestone]. It might be thought that this would draw¹¹³ their minds to a belief that there are in all bodies certain *faculties* by which they attract their own proper qualities.

Now Epicurus, despite the fact that he employs in his *Physics*¹¹⁴ elements similar to those of Asclepiades,¹¹⁵ yet allows that iron is attracted by the lodestone,¹¹⁶ and chaff by amber. He even tries to give the cause of the phenomenon. His view is that the atoms which flow from the stone are related in shape to those flowing from the iron, and so they become easily interlocked with one another; thus it is that, after colliding with each of the two compact masses (the stone and the iron) they then rebound into the middle and so become entangled with each other, and draw the iron after them. So far, then, as his hypotheses regarding causation¹¹⁷ go, he is perfectly unconvincing; nevertheless, he does grant that there is an attraction. Further, he says that it is on similar principles that there occur in the bodies of animals the dispersal of nutriment¹¹⁸ and the discharge of waste matters, as also the actions of cathartic drugs.

Pg 73
[Greek text](#)

Asclepiades, however, who viewed with suspicion the incredible character of the cause mentioned, and who saw no other credible cause on the basis of his supposed elements, shamelessly had recourse to the statement that nothing is in any way attracted by anything else. Now, if he was dissatisfied with what Epicurus said, and had nothing better to say himself, he ought to have refrained from making hypotheses, and should have said that Nature is a constructive artist and that the substance of things is always tending towards unity and also towards alteration because its own parts act upon and are acted upon by one another.¹¹⁹ For, if he had assumed this, it would not have been difficult to allow that this constructive nature has powers which attract appropriate and expel alien matter. For in no other way could she be constructive, preservative of the animal, and eliminative of its diseases,¹²⁰ unless it be allowed that she conserves what is appropriate and discharges what is foreign.

But in this matter, too, Asclepiades realized the logical sequence of the principles he had assumed; he showed no scruples, however, in opposing plain fact; he joins issue in this matter also, not merely with all physicians, but with everyone else, and maintains that there is no such thing as a crisis, or critical day,¹²¹ and that Nature does absolutely nothing for the preservation of the animal. For his constant aim is to follow out logical consequences and to upset obvious fact, in this respect being

Pg 75
[Greek text](#)

opposed to Epicurus; for the latter always stated the observed fact, although he gives an ineffective explanation of it. For, that these small corpuscles belonging to the lodestone rebound, and become entangled with other similar particles of the iron, and that then, by means of this entanglement (which cannot be seen anywhere) such a heavy substance as iron is attracted—I fail to understand how anybody could believe this. Even if we admit this, the same principle will not explain the fact that, when the iron has another piece brought in contact with it, this becomes attached to it.

For what are we to say? That, forsooth, some of the particles that flow from the lodestone collide with the iron and then rebound back, and that it is by these that the iron becomes suspended? that others penetrate into it, and rapidly pass through it by way of its empty channels?¹²² that these then collide with the second piece of iron and are not able to penetrate it although they penetrated the first piece? and that they then course back to the first piece, and produce entanglements like the former ones?

The hypothesis here becomes clearly refuted by its absurdity. As a matter of fact, I have seen five writing-stylets of iron attached to one another in a line, only the first one being in contact with the lodestone, and the power¹²³ being transmitted through it to the others. Moreover, it cannot be said that if you bring a second stylet into contact with the lower end of the first, it becomes held, attached, and suspended, whereas, if you apply it to any other part of the side it does not become attached. For the power of the lodestone is distributed in all directions; it merely needs to be in contact with the first stylet at any point; from this stylet again the power flows, as quick as a thought, all through the second, and from that again to the third. Now, if you imagine a small lodestone hanging in a house, and in contact with it all round a large number of pieces of iron, from them again others, from these others, and so on,—all these pieces of iron must surely become filled with the corpuscles which emanate from the stone; therefore, this first little stone is likely to become dissipated by disintegrating into these emanations.¹²⁴ Further, even if there be no iron in contact with it, it still disperses into the air, particularly if this be also warm.

Pg 77
[Greek text](#)

“Yes,” says Epicurus, “but these corpuscles must be looked on as exceedingly small, so that some of them are a ten-thousandth part of the size of the very smallest particles carried in the air.” Then do you venture to say that so great a weight of iron can be suspended by such small bodies? If each of them is a ten-thousandth part as large as the dust particles which are borne in the atmosphere, how big must we suppose the hook-like extremities by which they interlock with each other¹²⁵ to be? For of course this is quite the smallest portion of the whole particle.

Then, again, when a small body becomes entangled with another small body, or when a body in motion becomes entangled with another also in motion, they do not rebound at once. For, further, there will of course be others which break in upon them from above, from below, from front and rear, from right and left, and which shake and agitate them and never let them rest. Moreover, we must perforce suppose that each of these small bodies has a large number of these hook-like extremities. For by one it attaches itself to its neighbours, by another—the topmost one—to the lodestone, and by the bottom one to the iron. For if it were attached to the stone above and not interlocked with the iron below, this would be of no use.¹²⁶ Thus, the upper part of the superior extremity must hang from the lodestone, and the iron must be attached to the lower end of the inferior extremity; and, since they interlock with each other by their sides as well, they must, of course, have hooks there too. Keep in mind also, above everything, what small bodies these are which possess all these different kinds of outgrowths. Still more, remember how, in order that the second piece of iron may become attached to the first, the third to the second, and to that the fourth, these absurd little particles must both penetrate the passages in the first piece of iron and at the same time rebound from the piece coming next in the series, although this second piece is naturally in every way similar to the first.

Pg 79
[Greek text](#)

Such an hypothesis, once again, is certainly not lacking in audacity; in fact, to tell the truth, it is far more shameless than the previous ones; according to it, when five similar pieces of iron are arranged in a line, the particles of the lodestone which easily traverse the first piece of iron rebound from the second, and do not pass readily through it in the same way. Indeed, it is nonsense, whichever alternative is adopted. For, if they do rebound, how then do they pass through into the third piece? And if they do not rebound, how does the second piece become suspended to the first? For Epicurus himself looked on the rebound as the active agent in attraction.

Pg 81
[Greek text](#)

But, as I have said, one is driven to talk nonsense whenever one gets into discussion with such men. Having, therefore, given a concise and summary statement of the matter, I wish to be done with it. For if one diligently familiarizes oneself with the writings of Asclepiades, one will see clearly their logical dependence on his first principles, but also their disagreement with observed facts. Thus, Epicurus, in his desire to adhere to the facts, cuts an awkward figure by aspiring to show that these agree with his principles, whereas Asclepiades safeguards the sequence of

principles, but pays no attention to the obvious fact. Whoever, therefore, wishes to expose the absurdity of their hypotheses, must, if the argument be in answer to Asclepiades, keep in mind his disagreement with observed fact; or if in answer to Epicurus, his discordance with his principles. Almost all the other sects depending on similar principles are now entirely extinct, while these alone maintain a respectable existence still. Yet the tenets of Asclepiades have been unanswerably confuted by Menodotus the Empiricist, who draws his attention to their opposition to phenomena and to each other; and, again, those of Epicurus have been confuted by Asclepiades, who adhered always to logical sequence, about which Epicurus evidently cares little.

Pg 83
[Greek text](#)

Now people of the present day do not begin by getting a clear comprehension of these sects, as well as of the better ones, thereafter devoting a long time to judging and testing the true and false in each of them; despite their ignorance, they style themselves, some "physicians" and others "philosophers." No wonder, then, that they honour the false equally with the true. For everyone becomes like the first teacher that he comes across, without waiting to learn anything from anybody else. And there are some of them, who, even if they meet with more than one teacher, are yet so unintelligent and slow-witted that even by the time they have reached old age they are still incapable of understanding the steps of an argument.... In the old days such people used to be set to menial tasks.... What will be the end of it God knows!

Now, we usually refrain from arguing with people whose principles are wrong from the outset. Still, having been compelled by the natural course of events to enter into some kind of a discussion with them, we must add this further to what was said—that it is not only cathartic drugs which naturally attract their special qualities,¹²⁷ but also those which remove thorns and the points of arrows such as sometimes become deeply embedded in the flesh. Those drugs also which draw out animal poisons or poisons applied to arrows all show the same faculty as does the lodestone. Thus, I myself have seen a thorn which was embedded in a young man's foot fail to come out when we exerted forcible traction with our fingers, and yet come away painlessly and rapidly on the application of a medicament. Yet even to this some people will object, asserting that when the inflammation is dispersed from the part the thorn comes away of itself, without being pulled out by anything. But these people seem, in the first place, to be unaware that there are certain drugs for drawing out inflammation and different ones for drawing out embedded substances; and surely if it was on the cessation of an inflammation that the abnormal matters were expelled, then all drugs which disperse inflammations ought, *ipso facto*, to possess the power of extracting these substances as well.¹²⁸

Pg 85
[Greek text](#)

And secondly, these people seem to be unaware of a still more surprising fact, namely, that not merely do certain medicaments draw out thorns and others poisons, but that of the latter there are some which attract the poison of the viper, others that of the sting-ray,¹²⁹ and others that of some other animal; we can, in fact, plainly observe these poisons deposited on the medicaments. Here, then, we must praise Epicurus for the respect he shows towards obvious facts, but find fault with his views as to causation. For how can it be otherwise than extremely foolish to suppose that a thorn which we failed to remove by digital traction could be drawn out by these minute particles?

Have we now, therefore, convinced ourselves that everything which exists¹³⁰ possesses a faculty by which it attracts its proper quality, and that some things do this more, and some less?

Or shall we also furnish our argument with the illustration afforded by *corn*?¹³¹ For those who refuse to admit that anything is attracted by anything else, will, I imagine, be here proved more ignorant regarding Nature than the very peasants. When, for my own part, I first learned of what happens, I was surprised, and felt anxious to see it with my own eyes. Afterwards, when experience also had confirmed its truth, I sought long among the various sects for an explanation, and, with the exception of that which gave the first place to *attraction*, I could find none which even approached plausibility, all the others being ridiculous and obviously quite untenable.

Pg 87
[Greek text](#)

What happens, then, is the following. When our peasants are bringing corn from the country into the city in wagons, and wish to filch some away without being detected, they fill earthen jars with water and stand them among the corn; the corn then draws the moisture into itself through the jar and acquires additional bulk and weight, but the fact is never detected by the onlookers unless someone who knew about the trick before makes a more careful inspection. Yet, if you care to set down the same vessel in the very hot sun, you will find the daily loss to be very little indeed. Thus corn has a greater power than extreme solar heat of drawing to itself the moisture in its neighbourhood.¹³² Thus the theory that the water is carried towards the rarefied part of the air surrounding us¹³³ (particularly when that is distinctly warm) is utter nonsense; for although it is much more rarefied there than it is amongst the corn, yet it does not take up a tenth part of the moisture which the corn does.

Pg 89
[Greek text](#)

Since then, we have talked sufficient nonsense—not willingly, but because we were forced, as the proverb says, “to behave madly among madmen”—let us return again to the subject of urinary secretion. Here let us forget the absurdities of Asclepiades, and, in company with those who are persuaded that the urine does pass through the kidneys, let us consider what is the character of this function. For, most assuredly, either the urine is conveyed by its own motion to the kidneys, considering this the better course (as do we when we go off to market!¹³⁴), or, if this be impossible, then some other reason for its conveyance must be found. What, then, is this? If we are not going to grant the kidneys a faculty for attracting this particular quality,¹³⁵ as Hippocrates held, we shall discover no other reason. For, surely everyone sees that either the kidneys must attract the urine, or the veins must propel it—if, that is, it does not move of itself. But if the veins did exert a propulsive action when they contract, they would squeeze out into the kidneys not merely the urine, but along with it the whole of the blood which they contain.¹³⁶ And if this is impossible, as we shall show, the remaining explanation is that the kidneys do exert traction.

And how is propulsion by the veins impossible? The situation of the kidneys is against it. They do not occupy a position beneath the hollow vein [vena cava] as does the sieve-like [ethmoid] passage in the nose and palate in relation to the surplus matter from the brain;¹³⁷ they are situated on both sides of it. Besides, if the kidneys are like sieves, and readily let the thinner serous [whey-like] portion through, and keep out the thicker portion, then the whole of the blood contained in the vena cava must go to them, just as the whole of the wine is thrown into the filters. Further, the example of milk being made into cheese will show clearly what I mean. For this, too, although it is all thrown into the wicker strainers, does not all percolate through; such part of it as is too fine in proportion to the width of the meshes passes downwards, and this is called *whey* [serum]; the remaining thick portion which is destined to become cheese cannot get down, since the pores of the strainers will not admit it. Thus it is that, if the blood-serum has similarly to percolate through the kidneys, the whole of the blood must come to them, and not merely one part of it.

What, then, is the appearance as found on dissection?

One division of the vena cava is carried upwards¹³⁸ to the heart, and the other mounts upon the spine and extends along its whole length as far as the legs; thus one division does not even come near the kidneys, while the other approaches them but is certainly not inserted into them. Now, if the blood were destined to be purified by them as if they were sieves, the whole of it would have to fall into them, the thin part being thereafter conveyed downwards, and the thick part retained above. But, as a matter of fact, this is not so. For the kidneys lie on either side of the vena cava. They therefore do not act like sieves, filtering fluid sent to them by the vena cava, and themselves contributing no force. They obviously exert traction; for this is the only remaining alternative.

How, then, do they exert this traction? If, as Epicurus thinks, all attraction takes place by virtue of the *rebounds* and *entanglements* of atoms, it would be certainly better to maintain that the kidneys have no attractive action at all; for his theory, when examined, would be found as it stands to be much more ridiculous even than the theory of the lodestone, mentioned a little while ago. Attraction occurs in the way that Hippocrates laid down; this will be stated more clearly as the discussion proceeds; for the present our task is not to demonstrate this, but to point out that no other cause of the secretion of urine can be given except that of attraction by the kidneys,¹³⁹ and that this attraction does not take place in the way imagined by people who do not allow Nature a faculty of her own.¹⁴⁰

For if it be granted that there is any attractive faculty at all in those things which are governed by Nature,¹⁴¹ a person who attempted to say anything else about the absorption of nutriment¹⁴² would be considered a fool.

XVI

Now, while Erasistratus[143] for some reason replied at great length to certain other foolish doctrines, he entirely passed over the view held by Hippocrates, not even thinking it worth while to mention it, as he did in his work “On Deglutition”; in that work, as may be seen, he did go so far as at least to make mention of the word *attraction*, writing somewhat as follows:

“Now, the stomach does not appear to exercise any attraction.”¹⁴³ But when he is dealing with *anadosis* he does not mention the Hippocratic view even to the extent of a single syllable. Yet we should have been satisfied if he had even merely written this: “Hippocrates lies in saying ‘The flesh¹⁴⁴ attracts both from the stomach and from without,’ for it cannot attract either from the stomach or from without.” Or if he had thought it worth while to state that Hippocrates was wrong in criticizing the weakness of the neck of the uterus, “seeing that the orifice of the uterus has no

Pg 91
[Greek text](#)

Pg 93
[Greek text](#)

Pg 95
[Greek text](#)

power of attracting semen,"¹⁴⁵ or if he [Erasistratus] had thought proper to write any other similar opinion, then we in our turn would have defended ourselves in the following terms:

"My good sir, do not run us down in this rhetorical fashion without some proof; state some definite objection to our view, in order that either you may convince us by a brilliant refutation of the ancient doctrine, or that, on the other hand, we may convert you from your ignorance." Yet why do I say "rhetorical"? For we too are not to suppose that when certain rhetoricians pour ridicule upon that which they are quite incapable of refuting, without any attempt at argument, their words are really thereby constituted rhetoric. For rhetoric proceeds by persuasive reasoning; words without reasoning are buffoonery rather than rhetoric. Therefore, the reply of Erasistratus in his treatise "On Deglutition" was neither rhetoric nor logic. For what is it that he says? "Now, the stomach does not appear to exercise any traction." Let us testify against him in return, and set our argument beside his in the same form. *Now, there appears to be no peristalsis*¹⁴⁶ *of the gullet.* "And how does this appear?" one of his adherents may perchance ask. "For is it not indicative of *peristalsis* that always when the upper parts of the gullet contract the lower parts dilate?" Again, then, we say, "And in what way does the attraction of the stomach not appear? For is it not indicative of *attraction* that always when the lower parts of the gullet dilate the upper parts contract?" Now, if he would but be sensible and recognize that this phenomenon is not more indicative of the one than of the other view, but that it applies equally to both,¹⁴⁷ we should then show him without further delay the proper way to the discovery of truth.

Pg 97
[Greek text](#)

We will, however, speak about the stomach again. And the dispersal of nutriment [anadosis] need not make us have recourse to the theory regarding the *natural tendency of a vacuum to become refilled*,¹⁴⁸ when once we have granted the attractive faculty of the kidneys. Now, although Erasistratus knew that this faculty most certainly existed, he neither mentioned it nor denied it, nor did he make any statement as to his views on the secretion of urine.

Pg 99
[Greek text](#)

Why did he give notice at the very beginning of his "General Principles" that he was going to speak about natural activities—firstly what they are, how they take place, and in what situations—and then, in the case of urinary secretion, declared that this took place through the kidneys, but left out its method of occurrence? It must, then, have been for no purpose that he told us how digestion occurs, or spends time upon the secretion of biliary superfluities;¹⁴⁹ for in these cases also it would have been sufficient to have named the parts through which the function takes place, and to have omitted the method. On the contrary, in these cases he was able to tell us not merely through what organs, but also in what way it occurs—as he also did, I think, in the case of *anadosis*; for he was not satisfied with saying that this took place through the veins, but he also considered fully the method, which he held to be from the tendency of a vacuum to become refilled. Concerning the secretion of urine, however, he writes that this occurs through the kidneys, but does not add in what way it occurs. I do not think he could say that this was from the tendency of matter to fill a vacuum,¹⁵⁰ for, if this were so, nobody would have ever died of retention of urine, since no more can flow into a vacuum than has run out. For, if no other factor comes into operation¹⁵¹ save only this tendency by which a vacuum becomes refilled, no more could ever flow in than had been evacuated. Nor could he suggest any other plausible cause, such, for example, as the expression of nutriment by the stomach¹⁵² which occurs in the process of anadosis; this had been entirely disproved in the case of blood in the vena cava;¹⁵³ it is excluded, not merely owing to the long distance, but also from the fact that the overlying heart, at each diastole, robs the vena cava by violence of a considerable quantity of blood.

Pg 101
[Greek text](#)

In relation to the lower part of the vena cava¹⁵⁴ there would still remain, solitary and abandoned, the specious theory concerning the filling of a vacuum. This, however, is deprived of plausibility by the fact that people die of retention of urine, and also, no less, by the situation of the kidneys. For, if the whole of the blood were carried to the kidneys, one might properly maintain that it all undergoes purification there. But, as a matter of fact, the whole of it does not go to them, but only so much as can be contained in the veins going to the kidneys;¹⁵⁵ this portion only, therefore, will be purified. Further, the thin serous part of this will pass through the kidneys as if through a sieve, while the thick sanguineous portion remaining in the veins will obstruct the blood flowing in from behind; this will first, therefore, have to run back to the vena cava, and so to empty the veins going to the kidneys; these veins will no longer be able to conduct a second quantity of unpurified blood to the kidneys—occupied as they are by the blood which had preceded, there is no passage left. What power have we, then, which will draw back the purified blood from the kidneys? And what power, in the next place, will bid this blood retire to the lower part of the vena cava, and will enjoin on another quantity coming from above not to proceed downwards before turning off into the kidneys?

Pg 103
[Greek text](#)

Now Erasistratus realized that all these ideas were open to many objections, and he could only find one idea which held good in all respects—namely, that of *attraction*.

Since, therefore, he did not wish either to get into difficulties or to mention the view of Hippocrates, he deemed it better to say nothing at all as to the manner in which secretion occurs.

But even if he kept silence, I am not going to do so. For I know that if one passes over the Hippocratic view and makes some other pronouncement about the function of the kidneys, one cannot fail to make oneself utterly ridiculous. It was for this reason that Erasistratus kept silence and Asclepiades lied; they are like slaves who have had plenty to say in the early part of their career, and have managed by excessive rascality to escape many and frequent accusations, but who, later, when caught in the act of thieving, cannot find any excuse; the more modest one then keeps silence, as though thunderstruck, whilst the more shameless continues to hide the missing article beneath his arm and denies on oath that he has ever seen it. For it was in this way also that Asclepiades, when all subtle excuses had failed him and there was no longer any room for nonsense about "conveyance towards the rarefied part [of the air],"¹⁵⁶ and when it was impossible without incurring the greatest derision to say that this superfluity [*i.e.* the urine] is generated by the kidneys as is bile by the canals in the liver—he, then, I say, clearly lied when he swore that the urine does not reach the kidneys, and maintained that it passes, in the form of vapour, straight from the region of the vena cava,¹⁵⁷ to collect in the bladder.

Pg 105
[Greek text](#)

Like slaves, then, caught in the act of stealing, these two are quite bewildered, and while the one says nothing, the other indulges in shameless lying.

XVII

Now such of the younger men as have dignified themselves with the names of these two authorities by taking the appellations "Erasistrateans" or "Asclepiadeans" are like the *Davi* and *Getae*—the slaves introduced by the excellent Menander into his comedies. As these slaves held that they had done nothing fine unless they had cheated their master three times, so also the men I am discussing have taken their time over the construction of impudent sophisms, the one party striving to prevent the lies of Asclepiades from ever being refuted, and the other saying stupidly what Erasistratus had the sense to keep silence about.

But enough about the Asclepiadeans. The Erasistrateans, in attempting to say how the kidneys let the urine through, will do anything or suffer anything or try any shift in order to find some plausible explanation which does not demand the principle of *attraction*.

Pg 107
[Greek text](#)

Now those near the times of Erasistratus maintain that the parts above the kidneys receive pure blood, whilst the watery residue, being heavy, tends to run downwards; that this, after percolating through the kidneys themselves, is thus rendered serviceable, and is sent, as blood, to all the parts below the kidneys.

For a certain period at least this view also found favour and flourished, and was held to be true; after a time, however, it became suspect to the Erasistrateans themselves, and at last they abandoned it. For apparently the following two points were assumed, neither of which is conceded by anyone, nor is even capable of being proved. The first is the heaviness of the serous fluid, which was said to be produced in the vena cava, and which did not exist, apparently, at the beginning, when this fluid was being carried up from the stomach to the liver. Why, then, did it not at once run downwards when it was in these situations? And if the watery fluid is so heavy, what plausibility can anyone find in the statement that it assists in the process of *anadosis*?

In the second place there is this absurdity, that even if it be agreed that all the watery fluid does fall downwards, and only when it is in the vena cava,¹⁵⁸ still it is difficult, or, rather, impossible, to say through what means it is going to fall into the kidneys, seeing that these are not situated below, but on either side of the vena cava, and that the vena cava is not inserted into them, but merely sends a branch¹⁵⁹ into each of them, as it also does into all the other parts.

Pg 109
[Greek text](#)

What doctrine, then, took the place of this one when it was condemned? One which to me seems far more foolish than the first, although it also flourished at one time. For they say, that if oil be mixed with water and poured upon the ground, each will take a different route, the one flowing this way and the other that, and that, therefore, it is not surprising that the watery fluid runs into the kidneys, while the blood falls downwards along the vena cava. Now this doctrine also stands already condemned. For why, of the countless veins which spring from the vena cava, should blood flow into all the others, and the serous fluid be diverted to those going to the kidneys? They have not answered the question which was asked; they merely state what happens and imagine they have thereby assigned the reason.

Once again, then (the third cup to the Saviour!),¹⁶⁰ let us now speak of the worst doctrine of all, lately invented by Lycus of Macedonia,¹⁶¹ but which is popular owing to its novelty. This Lycus, then, maintains, as though uttering an oracle from the

inner sanctuary, that urine is *residual matter from the nutrition of the kidneys!*¹⁶² Now, the amount of urine passed every day shows clearly that it is the whole of the fluid drunk which becomes urine, except for that which comes away with the dejections or passes off as sweat or insensible perspiration. This is most easily recognized in winter in those who are doing no work but are carousing, especially if the wine be thin and diffusible; these people rapidly pass almost the same quantity as they drink. And that even Erasistratus was aware of this is known to those who have read the first book of his “General Principles.”¹⁶³ Thus Lycus is speaking neither good Erasistratism, nor good Asclepiadism, far less good Hippocratism. He is, therefore, as the saying is, like a white crow, which cannot mix with the genuine crows owing to its colour, nor with the pigeons owing to its size. For all this, however, he is not to be disregarded; he may, perhaps, be stating some wonderful truth, unknown to any of his predecessors.

Pg 111
[Greek text](#)

Now it is agreed that all parts which are undergoing nutrition produce a certain amount of residue, but it is neither agreed nor is it likely, that the kidneys alone, small bodies as they are, could hold four whole *congi*,¹⁶⁴ and sometimes even more, of residual matter. For this surplus must necessarily be greater in quantity in each of the larger viscera; thus, for example, that of the lung, if it corresponds in amount to the size of the viscus, will obviously be many times more than that in the kidneys, and thus the whole of the thorax will become filled, and the animal will be at once suffocated. But if it be said that the residual matter is equal in amount in each of the other parts, where are the *bladders*, one may ask, through which it is excreted? For, if the kidneys produce in drinkers three and sometimes four *congi* of superfluous matter, that of each of the other viscera will be much more, and thus an enormous barrel will be needed to contain the waste products of them all. Yet one often urinates practically the same quantity as one has drunk, which would show that the whole of what one drinks goes to the kidneys.

Pg 113-115
[Greek text](#)

Thus the author of this third piece of trickery would appear to have achieved nothing, but to have been at once detected, and there still remains the original difficulty which was insoluble by Erasistratus and by all others except Hippocrates. I dwell purposely on this topic, knowing well that nobody else has anything to say about the function of the kidneys, but that either we must prove more foolish than the very butchers¹⁶⁵ if we do not agree that the urine passes through the kidneys; or, if one acknowledges this, that then one cannot possibly give any other reason for the secretion than the principle of attraction.

Now, if the movement of urine does not depend on the tendency of a vacuum to become refilled,¹⁶⁶ it is clear that neither does that of the blood nor that of the bile; or if that of these latter does so, then so also does that of the former. For they must all be accomplished in one and the same way, even according to Erasistratus himself.

This matter, however, will be discussed more fully in the book following this.

- 5 That is, “On the Natural Powers,” the powers of the *Physis* or Nature. By that Galen practically means what we would call the physiological or biological powers, the characteristic faculties of the living organism; his *Physis* is the subconscious vital principle of the animal or plant. Like Aristotle, however, he also ascribes quasi-vital properties to inanimate things, *cf.* Introduction, p. [xxvii](#).
- 6 *Ergon*, here rendered an *effect*, is literally a *work* or *deed*; strictly speaking, it is something *done*, *completed*, as distinguished from *energeia*, which is the actual *doing*, the *activity* which produces this *ergon*, *cf.* p. [13](#), and Introduction, p. [xxx](#).
- 7 Gk. *psyche*, Lat. *anima*.
- 8 Gk. *physis*, Lat. *natura*.
- 9 *Motion* (kinesis) is Aristotle’s general term for what we would rather call *change*. It includes various kinds of change, as well as movement proper, *cf.* Introduction, p. [xxix](#).
- 10 “Conveyance,” “transport,” “transit”; purely mechanical or passive motion, as distinguished from *alteration* (qualitative change).
- 11 “Waxing and waning,” the latter literally *phthisis*, a wasting or “decline;” *cf.* Scotch *divining*, Dutch *verdwijnen*.
- 12 Becoming and perishing: Latin, *generatio et corruptio*.
- 13 “Ad substantiam productio seu ad formam processus” (Linacre).
- 14 “Preformationist” doctrine of Anaxagoras. To him the apparent alteration in qualities took place when a number of minute pre-existing bodies, all bearing the same quality, came together in sufficient numbers to impress that quality on the senses. The factor which united the minute quality-bearers was *Nous*. “In the beginning,” says Anaxagoras, “all things existed together—then came *Nous* and brought them into order.”
- 15 “De ea alteratione quae per totam fit substantiam” (Linacre).
- 16 The systematizer of Stoicism and successor of Zeno.
- 17 Note characteristic impatience with metaphysics. To Galen, as to Hippocrates and

- Aristotle, it sufficed to look on the qualitative differences apprehended by the senses as fundamental. Zeno of Citium was the founder of the Stoic school; on the further analysis by this school of the *qualities* into *bodies* cf. p. 144, [note 3](#).
- 18 A rallying-ground: lit. a place where two glens meet.
- 19 Thus according to Gomperz (*Greek Thinkers*), the hypothesis of Anaxagoras was that "the bread ... already contained the countless forms of matter as such which the human body displays. Their minuteness of size would withdraw them from our perception. For the defect or 'weakness' of the senses is the narrowness of their receptive area. These elusive particles are rendered visible and tangible by the process of *nutrition*, which combines them."
- 20 Therefore the blood must have come from the bread. The food from the alimentary canal was supposed by Galen to be converted into blood in and by the portal veins, cf. p. 17.
- 21 By "elements" is meant all homogeneous, amorphous substances, such as metals, &c., as well as the elementary *tissues*.
- 22 Work or product. Lat. *opus*. cf. p. 3, [note 2](#).
- 23 Operation, activation, or functioning. Lat. *actio*. cf. *loc. cit.*
- 24 *i.e.* a concomitant (secondary) or passive affection. Galen is contrasting active and passive "motion." cf. p. 6, [note 1](#).
- 25 As already indicated, there is no exact English equivalent for the Greek term *physis*, which is a principle immanent in the animal itself, whereas our term "Nature" suggests something more transcendent; we are forced often, however, to employ it in default of a better word. cf. p. 2, [note 1](#).
- 26 In Greek *anadosis*. This process includes two stages: (1) transmission of food from alimentary canal to liver (rather more than our "absorption"); (2) further transmission from liver to tissues. *Anadosis* is lit. a yielding-up, a "delivery;" it may sometimes be rendered "dispersal." "Distribution" (*diadosis*) is a further stage; cf. p. 163, [note 4](#).
- 27 cf. p. 9.
- 28 Since heat and cold tend to cause diffusion and condensation respectively.
- 29 Lit. *haematopoietic*. cf. p. 11, [note 3](#).
- 30 Lit. *peptic*.
- 31 Lit. *sphygmia*.
- 32 *Genesis* corresponds to the intrauterine life, or what we may call *embryogeny*. *Alteration* here means histogenesis or tissue-production; *shaping* or *moulding* (in Greek *diaplasia*) means the ordering of these tissues into organs (organogenesis).
- 33 cf. p. 25, [note 4](#).
- 34 Note inadequate analogy of semen with fertilised seeds of plants (*i.e.* of gamete with zygote). Strictly speaking, of course, semen corresponds to pollen. cf. p. 130, [note 2](#).
- 35 *i.e.* the four primary qualities; cf. chap. [iii](#). *supra*.
- 36 Various secondary or derivative differences in the tissues. Note pre-eminence of sense of touch.
- 37 *De Anima*, ii. *et seq.*
- 38 Lit. *homoeomerous* = of similar parts throughout, "the same all through." He refers to the elementary tissues, conceived as not being susceptible of further analysis.
- 39 That is, by the bodily eye, and not by the mind's eye. The observer is here called an *autoptes* or "eye-witness." Our medical term *autopsy* thus means literally a *persona inspection* of internal parts, ordinarily hidden.
- 40 *i.e.* "alteration" is the earlier of the two stages which constitute embryogeny or "genesis." cf. p. 18, [note 1](#).
- 41 The terms Galen actually uses are: *ostopoietic*, *neuropoietic*, *chondropoietic*.
- 42 As we should say, *parenchyma* (a term used by Erasistratus).
- 43 Those were all the elemental tissues that Aristotle, for example, had recognized; other tissues (*e.g.* flesh or muscle) he believed to be complexes of these.
- 44 Or *tunics*.
- 45 *i.e.* tissues.
- 46 As, for example, Aristotle had held; cf. p. 23, [note 3](#). Galen added many new tissues to those described by Aristotle.
- 47 Lit. *synthesis*.
- 48 By this is meant the *duodenum*, considered as an outgrowth or prolongation of the stomach towards the intestines.
- 49 cf. p. 19, [note 2](#).
- 50 Lit. the *auxetic* or *incremental* faculty.

- 51 *i.e.* to the alterative and shaping faculties (histogenetic and organogenetic).
- 52 If the reading is correct we can only suppose that Galen meant *the embryo*.
- 53 *i.e.* not the pre-natal development of tissue already described. *cf.* [chap. vi](#).
- 54 Administration, lit. "economy."
- 55 The *activation* or *functioning* of this faculty, the faculty *in actual operation*. *cf.* p. 3, [note 2](#).
- 56 "Un rapport commun et une affinité" (Daremberg). "Societatem aliquam cognationemque in qualitatibus" (Linacre). *cf.* p. 36, [note 2](#).
- 57 Lit. "necessity"; more *restrictive*, however, than our "law of Nature." *cf.* p. 314, [note 1](#).
- 58 His point is that no great change, in colours or in anything else, can take place at one step.
- 59 Not quite our "waste *products*," since these are considered as being partly synthetic, whereas the Greek *perittomata* were simply superfluous substances which could not be used and were thrown aside.
- 60 Note "our natures," *cf.* p. 12, [note 4](#); p. 47, [note 1](#).
- 61 The term οἰκεῖος, here rendered *appropriate*, is explained on [p. 33](#). *cf.* also [footnote](#) on same page. Linacre often translated it *conueniens*, and it may usually be rendered *proper*, *peculiar*, *own special*, or *own particular* in English. Sometimes it is almost equal to *akin*, *cognate*, *related*: *cf.* p. 319, [note 2](#). With Galen's οἰκεῖος and ἀλλότριος we may compare the German terms *eigen* and *fremd* used by Aberhalden in connection with his theory of defensive ferments in the blood-serum.
- 62 Transit, *cf.* p. 6, [note 1](#).
- 63 *i.e.* of the living organism, *cf.* p. 2, [note 1](#).
- 64 *i.e.* with nutrition.
- 65 We might perhaps say, more shortly, "assimilation of food to feeder," or, "of food to fed"; Linacre renders, "nutrimenti cum nutrito assimilatio."
- 66 Lit. *prospheysis*, *i.e.* attachment, implantation.
- 67 Lit. *prosthesis*, "apposition." One is almost tempted to retain the terms *prosthesis* and *prospheysis* in translation, as they obviously correspond much more closely to Galen's physiological conceptions than any English or semi-English words can.
- 68 Lit. *phthisis*. *cf.* p. 6, [note 2](#). Now means *tuberculosis* only.
- 69 More literally, "chymified." In *anasarca* the subcutaneous tissue is soft, and pits on pressure. In the "white" disease referred to here (by which is probably meant *nodular leprosy*) the same tissues are indurated and "brawny." The principle of certain diseases being best explained as cases of *arrest* at various stages of the metabolic path is recognized in modern pathology, although of course the instances given by Galen are too crude to stand.
- 70 The effects of *oxidation* attributed to the heat which accompanies it? *cf.* p. 141, [note 1](#); p. 254, [note 1](#).
- 71 Here follows a contrast between the Vitalists and the Epicurean Atomists. *cf.* p. [153 et seq.](#)
- 72 A unity or *continuum*, an *individuum*.
- 73 Lit. to the *physis* or the *psyche*; that is, a denial of the autonomy of physiology and psychology.
- 74 Lit. *somata*.
- 75 For "natures" in the plural, involving the idea of a separate nature immanent in each individual, *cf.* p. 36, [note 1](#).
- 76 A lost work.
- 77 For Asclepiades *v.* p. 49, [note 5](#).
- 78 "Le corps tout entier a unité de souffle (*perspiration et expiration*) et unité de flux (*courants, circulation des liquides*)" (Daremberg). "Conspirabile et confluale corpus esse" (Linacre). Apparently Galen refers to the pneuma and the various humours. *cf.* p. 293, [note 2](#).
- 79 *i.e.* "appropriated"; very nearly "assimilated."
- 80 "Attractricem convenientis qualitatis vim" (Linacre). *cf.* p. 36, [note 2](#).
- 81 Lit. "obvious phenomena."
- 82 Asclepiades of Bithynia, who flourished in the first half of the first century B.C., was an adherent of the atomistic philosophy of Democritus, and is the typical representative of the Mechanistic school in Graeco-Roman medicine; he disbelieved in any principle of individuality ("nature") in the organism, and his methods of treatment, in accordance with his pathology, were mechano-therapeutical. *cf.* p. 64, [note 3](#).
- 83 Diocles of Carystus was the chief representative of the Dogmatic or Hippocratic

- school in the first half of the fourth century B.C. Praxagoras was his disciple, and followed him in the leadership of the school. For Erasistratus, *cf.* [p. 95 et seq.](#)
- 84 Sufferers from kidney-trouble.
- 85 The ureters.
- 86 Unless otherwise stated, “peritoneum” stands for parietal peritoneum alone.
- 87 In the peritoneal cavity.
- 88 Contrast, however, *anasarca*, [p. 41](#).
- 89 Regurgitation, however, is prevented by the fact that the ureter runs for nearly one inch obliquely through the bladder wall before opening into its cavity, and thus an efficient *valve* is produced.
- 90 On the τέχνη (artistic or creative skill) shown by the living organism (φύσις) *v.* pp. [25](#), [45](#), [47](#); Introduction, p. [xxix](#).
- 91 Direct denial of Aristotle’s dictum that “Nature does nothing in vain.” We are reminded of the view of certain modern laboratory physicians and surgeons that the *colon* is a “useless” organ, *cf.* Erasistratus, [p. 143](#).
- 92 The *vasa deferentia*.
- 93 “De l’habileté et de la prévoyance de la nature à l’égard des animaux” (Daremberg). *cf.* p. 56, [note 1](#).
- 94 *cf.* p. 36, [note 2](#).
- 95 The morbid material passed successively through the stages of “crudity,” “coction” (*pepsis*), and “elimination” (*crisis*). For “critical days” *cf.* p. 74, [note 1](#).
- 96 This was the process by which nutriment was taken up from the alimentary canal; “absorption,” “dispersal;” *cf.* p. 13, [note 5](#). The subject is dealt with more fully in [chap. xvi](#).
- 97 Lit. *catharsis*.
- 98 *i.e.* urine.
- 99 On use of κενόω *v.* p. 67, [note 9](#).
- 100 *i.e.* bile and phlegm had no existence as such before the drugs were given; they are the products of dissolved tissue. Asclepiades did not believe that diseases were due to a *materia peccans*, but to disturbances in the movements of the molecules (ὄγκου) which constitute the body; thus, in opposition to the humoralists such as Galen, he had no use for drugs. *cf.* p. 49, [note 5](#).
- 101 About 4 oz., or one-third of a pint.
- 102 The Empiricists, *cf.* Introduction, p. [xiii](#).
- 103 His ὄγκου or molecules.
- 104 He does not say “organized” or “living” body; inanimate things were also thought to possess “natures”; *cf.* p. 2, [note 1](#).
- 105 Carthamus tinctorius.
- 106 Daphne Gnidium.
- 107 Euphorbia acanthothamnos.
- 108 Teucrium chamaedrys.
- 109 Atractylis gummifera.
- 110 On use of κενόω *cf.* p. 98, [note 1](#).
- 111 Empiricist physicians.
- 112 Note that drugs also have “natures”; *cf.* p. 66, [note 3](#), and pp. [83-84](#).
- 113 Pun here.
- 114 Lit. *physiology*, *i.e.* *nature-lore*, almost our “Natural Philosophy”; *cf.* Introduction, p. [xxvi](#).
- 115 The ultimate particle of Epicurus was the ἄτομος or atom (lit. “non-divisible”), of Asclepiades, the ὄγκος or molecule. Asclepiades took his atomic theory from Epicurus, and he again from Democritus; *cf.* p. 49, [note 5](#).
- 116 Lit. *Herculean stone*.
- 117 Lit. *aetiology*.
- 118 *Anadosis*; *cf.* p. 62, [note 1](#).
- 119 *cf.* p. [45](#).
- 120 The *vis conservatrix et medicatrix Naturae*.
- 121 *cf.* p. 61, [note 3](#). The *crisis* or resolution in fevers was observed to take place with a certain regularity; hence arose the doctrine of “critical days.”
- 122 These were hypothetical spaces or channels between the atoms; *cf.* Introduction, p. [xiv](#).
- 123 He means the specific drawing power or faculty of the lodestone.

- 124 *cf.* our modern “radium-emanations.”
- 125 *cf.* Ehrlich’s hypothesis of “receptors” in explanation of the “affinities” of animal cells.
- 126 *i.e.* from the point of view of the theory.
- 127 *cf.* p. 69, [note 2](#).
- 128 That is to say, the two properties should go together in all cases—which they do not.
- 129 *Trygon pastinaca*.
- 130 *cf.* p. 66, [note 3](#).
- 131 The way that corn can attract moisture.
- 132 Specific attraction of the “proper” quality; *cf.* p. 85, [note 3](#).
- 133 Theory of evaporation insufficient to account for it. *cf.* p. 104, [note 1](#).
- 134 Playful suggestion of free-will in the urine.
- 135 Specific attraction, *cf.* p. 87, [note 2](#).
- 136 *i.e.* there would be no selective action.
- 137 Nasal mucus was supposed to be the non-utilizable part of the nutriment conveyed to the brain, *cf.* p. 214, [note 3](#).
- 138 He means from its origin in the liver (*i.e.* in the three hepatic veins). His idea was that the upper division took nutriment to heart, lungs, head, etc., and the lower division to lower part of body. On the relation of right auricle to vena cava and right ventricle, *cf.* p. 321, [notes 4](#) and [5](#).
- 139 We arrive at our belief by excluding other possibilities.
- 140 *i.e.* the mechanistic physicists. *cf.* pp. [45-47](#).
- 141 *cf.* p. 85, [note 3](#).
- 142 The subject of *anadosis* is taken up in the next chapter. *cf.* also p. 62, [note 1](#).
- 143 On Erasistratus *v.* Introd. p. [xii](#). His view that the stomach exerts no *holké*, or attraction, is dealt with more fully in Book III., chap. [viii](#).
- 144 *i.e.* the tissues.
- 145 *cf.* p. 291.
- 146 *Peristalsis* may be used here to translate Gk. *peristolé*, meaning the contraction and dilation of muscle-fibres *circularly* round a lumen, *cf.* p. 263, [note 2](#).
- 147 For a demonstration that this phenomenon is a conclusive proof neither of *peristolé* nor of real vital *attraction*, but is found even in dead bodies *v.* p. [267](#).
- 148 This was Erasistratus’s favourite principle, known in Latin as the “horror vacui” and in English as “Nature’s abhorrence of a vacuum,” although these terms are not an exact translation of the Greek. τὸ κενούμενον probably means *the vacuum*, not the *matter evacuated*, although Galen elsewhere uses κενόω in the latter (non-classical) sense, *e.g.* pp. [67](#), [215](#). Akolouthia is a *following-up*, a *sequence*, almost a *consequence*.
- 149 *v.* p. [123](#).
- 150 *cf.* Book II., [chap. i](#).
- 151 Vital factor necessary over and above the mechanical.
- 152 *cf.* p. 119, [note 2](#).
- 153 pp. [91](#), [93](#).
- 154 *i.e.* the part below the liver; *cf.* p. 91, [note 2](#).
- 155 Renal veins.
- 156 *cf.* p. 87, [note 3](#).
- 157 κοίλην: the usual reading is κοιλίαν, which would make it “from the region of the alimentary canal.” *cf.* p. 118, [note 1](#).
- 158 Not at an earlier stage, when it is still on its way from the alimentary canal to the liver.
- 159 *i.e.* a renal vein.
- 160 In a toast, the third cup was drunk to Zeus Sôtêr (the Saviour).
- 161 An anatomist of the Alexandrian school.
- 162 *cf.* nasal mucus, p. 90, [note 1](#).
- 163 “Sur l’Ensemble des Choses” (Darembert).
- 164 About twelve quarts. This is about five times as much as the average daily excretion, and could only be passed if a very large amount of wine were drunk.
- 165 *cf.* p. [51](#).
- 166 Horror vacui. Note analogical reasoning; *cf.* p. 289, [note 1](#).

I

In the previous book we demonstrated that not only Erasistratus, but also all others who would say anything to the purpose about urinary secretion, must acknowledge that the kidneys possess some faculty which attracts to them this particular quality existing in the urine.¹⁶⁷ Besides this we drew attention to the fact that the urine is not carried through the kidneys into the bladder by one method, the blood into parts of the animal by another, and the yellow bile separated out on yet another principle. For when once there has been demonstrated in any one organ, the drawing, or so-called *epispastic*¹⁶⁸ faculty, there is then no difficulty in transferring it to the rest. Certainly Nature did not give a power such as this to the kidneys without giving it also to the vessels which abstract the biliary fluid,¹⁶⁹ nor did she give it to the latter without also giving it to each of the other parts. And, assuredly, if this is true, we must marvel that Erasistratus should make statements concerning the delivery of nutriment from the food-canal¹⁷⁰ which are so false as to be detected even by Asclepiades. Now, Erasistratus considers it absolutely certain that, if anything flows from the veins, one of two things must happen: either a completely empty space will result, or the contiguous quantum of fluid will run in and take the place of that which has been evacuated. Asclepiades, however, holds that not one of two, but one of three things must be said to result in the emptied vessels: either there will be an entirely empty space, or the contiguous portion will flow in, or the vessel will contract. For whereas, in the case of reeds and tubes it is true to say that, if these be submerged in water, and are emptied of the air which they contain in their lumens, then either a completely empty space will be left, or the contiguous portion will move onwards; in the case of veins this no longer holds, since their coats can collapse and so fall in upon the interior cavity. It may be seen, then, how false this hypothesis—by Zeus, I cannot call it a demonstration!—of Erasistratus is.

Pg 119
[Greek text](#)

And, from another point of view, even if it were true, it is superfluous, if the stomach¹⁷¹ has the power of compressing the veins, as he himself supposed, and the veins again of contracting upon their contents and propelling them forwards.¹⁷² For, apart from other considerations, no *plethora*¹⁷³ would ever take place in the body, if delivery of nutriment resulted merely from the tendency of a vacuum to become refilled. Now, if the compression of the stomach becomes weaker the further it goes, and cannot reach to an indefinite distance, and if, therefore, there is need of some other mechanism to explain why the blood is conveyed in all directions, then the principle of the refilling of a vacuum may be looked on as a necessary addition;¹⁷⁴ there will not, however, be a plethora in any of the parts coming after the liver,¹⁷⁵ or, if there be, it will be in the region of the heart and lungs; for the heart alone of the parts which come after the liver draws the nutriment into its right ventricle, thereafter sending it through the *arterioid vein*¹⁷⁶ to the lungs (for Erasistratus himself will have it that, owing to the membranous excrescences,¹⁷⁷ no other parts save the lungs receive nourishment from the heart). If, however, in order to explain how plethora comes about, we suppose the force of compression by the stomach to persist indefinitely, we have no further need of the principle of the refilling of a vacuum, especially if we assume contraction of the veins in addition—as is, again, agreeable to Erasistratus himself.

Pg 121
[Greek text](#)

II

Let me draw his attention, then, once again, even if he does not wish it, to the kidneys, and let me state that these confute in the very clearest manner such people as object to the principle of *attraction*. Nobody has ever said anything plausible, nor, as we previously showed, has anyone been able to discover, by any means, any other cause for the secretion of urine; we necessarily appear mad if we maintain that the urine passes into the kidneys in the form of vapour, and we certainly cut a poor figure when we talk about the tendency of a vacuum to become refilled,¹⁷⁸ this idea is foolish in the case of blood, and impossible, nay, perfectly nonsensical, in the case of the urine.¹⁷⁹

Pg 123
[Greek text](#)

This, then, is one blunder made by those who dissociate themselves from the principle of attraction. Another is that which they make about the *secretion of yellow bile*. For in this case, too, it is not a fact that when the blood runs past the mouths [stomata] of the bile-ducts there will be a thorough separation out [secretion] of biliary waste-matter. "Well," say they, "let us suppose that it is not secreted but carried with the blood all over the body." But, you sapient folk, Erasistratus himself supposed that Nature took thought for the animals' future, and was workmanlike in her method; and at the same time he maintained that the biliary fluid was useless in every way for the animals. Now these two things are incompatible. For how could Nature be still looked on as exercising forethought for the animal when she allowed a

noxious humour such as this to be carried off and distributed with the blood?...

This, however, is a small matter. I shall again point out here the greatest and most obvious error. For if the yellow bile adjusts itself to the narrower vessels and stomata, and the blood to the wider ones, for no other reason than that blood is thicker and bile thinner, and that the stomata of the veins are wider and those of the bile-ducts narrower,¹⁸⁰ then it is clear that this watery and serous superfluity,¹⁸¹ too, will run out into the bile-ducts quicker than does the bile, exactly in proportion as it is thinner than the bile! How is it, then, that it does not run out? "Because," it may be said, "urine is thicker than bile!" This was what one of our Erasistrateans ventured to say, herein clearly disregarding the evidence of his senses, although he had trusted these in the case of the bile and blood. For, if it be that we are to look on bile as thinner than blood because it runs more, then, since the serous residue¹⁸¹ passes through fine linen or lint or a sieve more easily even than does bile, by these tokens bile must also be thicker than the watery fluid. For here, again, there is no argument which will demonstrate that bile is thinner than the serous superfluities.

Pg 125
[Greek text](#)

But when a man shamelessly goes on using circumlocutions, and never acknowledges when he has had a fall, he is like the amateur wrestlers, who, when they have been overthrown by the experts and are lying on their backs on the ground, so far from recognizing their fall, actually seize their victorious adversaries by the necks and prevent them from getting away, thus supposing themselves to be the winners!

Pg 127
[Greek text](#)

III

Thus, every hypothesis of *channels*¹⁸² as an explanation of natural functioning is perfect nonsense. For, if there were not *an inborn faculty* given by Nature to each one of the organs at the very beginning, then animals could not continue to live even for a few days, far less for the number of years which they actually do. For let us suppose they were under no guardianship, lacking in creative ingenuity¹⁸³ and forethought; let us suppose they were steered only by material forces,¹⁸⁴ and not by any special *faculties* (the one attracting what is proper to it, another rejecting what is foreign, and yet another causing alteration and adhesion of the matter destined to nourish it); if we suppose this, I am sure it would be ridiculous for us to discuss natural, or, still more, psychical, activities—or, in fact, life as a whole.¹⁸⁵

For there is not a single animal which could live or endure for the shortest time if, possessing within itself so many different parts, it did not employ faculties which were attractive of what is appropriate, eliminative of what is foreign, and alterative of what is destined for nutrition. On the other hand, if we have these faculties, we no longer need *channels*, little or big, resting on an unproven hypothesis, for explaining the secretion of urine and bile, and the conception of some *favourable situation* (in which point alone Erasistratus shows some common sense, since he does regard all the parts of the body as having been well and truly placed and shaped by Nature).

Pg 129
[Greek text](#)

But let us suppose he remained true to his own statement that Nature is "artistic"—this Nature which, at the beginning, well and truly shaped and disposed all the parts of the animal,¹⁸⁶ and, after carrying out this function (for she left nothing undone), brought it forward to the light of day, endowed with certain faculties necessary for its very existence, and, thereafter, gradually increased it until it reached its due size. If he argued consistently on this principle, I fail to see how he can continue to refer natural functions to the smallness or largeness of canals, or to any other similarly absurd hypothesis. For this Nature which shapes and gradually adds to the parts is most certainly extended throughout their whole substance. Yes indeed, she shapes and nourishes and increases them through and through, not on the outside only. For Praxiteles and Phidias and all the other statuaries used merely to decorate their material on the outside, in so far as they were able to touch it; but its inner parts they left unembellished, unwrought, unaffected by art or forethought, since they were unable to penetrate therein and to reach and handle all portions of the material. It is not so, however, with Nature. Every part of a bone she makes bone, every part of the flesh she makes flesh, and so with fat and all the rest; there is no part which she has not touched, elaborated, and embellished. Phidias, on the other hand, could not turn wax into ivory and gold, nor yet gold into wax: for each of these remains as it was at the commencement, and becomes a perfect statue simply by being clothed externally in a form and artificial shape. But Nature does not preserve the original character of any kind of matter; if she did so then all parts of the animal would be blood—that blood, namely, which flows to the semen from the impregnated female and which is, so to speak, like the statuary's wax, a single uniform matter, subjected to the artificer. From this blood there arises no part of the animal which is as red and moist [as blood is], for bone, artery, vein, nerve, cartilage, fat, gland, membrane, and marrow are not blood, though they arise from it.

Pg 131
[Greek text](#)

I would then ask Erasistratus himself to inform me what the altering, coagulating, and shaping agent is. He would doubtless say, "Either Nature or the semen," meaning the same thing in both cases, but explaining it by different devices. For that which was previously semen, when it begins to procreate and to shape the animal,

becomes, so to say, a special *nature*.¹⁸⁷ For in the same way that Phidias possessed the faculties of his art even before touching his material, and then activated these in connection with this material (for every faculty remains inoperative in the absence of its proper material), so it is with the semen: its faculties it possessed from the beginning,¹⁸⁸ while its activities it does not receive from its material, but it manifests them in connection therewith.

And, of course, if it were to be overwhelmed with a great quantity of blood, it would perish, while if it were to be entirely deprived of blood it would remain inoperative and would not turn into a *nature*. Therefore, in order that it may not perish, but may become a *nature* in place of semen, there must be an afflux to it of a little blood—or, rather, one should not say a little, but a quantity commensurate with that of the semen. What is it then that measures the quantity of this afflux? What prevents more from coming? What ensures against a deficiency? What is this third overseer of animal generation that we are to look for, which will furnish the semen with a due amount of blood? What would Erasistratus have said if he had been alive, and had been asked this question? Obviously, the semen itself. This, in fact, is the artificer analogous with Phidias, whilst the blood corresponds to the statuary's wax.

Pg 133
[Greek text](#)

Now, it is not for the wax to discover for itself how much of it is required; that is the business of Phidias. Accordingly the artificer will draw to itself as much blood as it needs. Here, however, we must pay attention and take care not unwittingly to credit the semen with reason and intelligence; if we were to do this, we would be making neither semen nor a nature, but an actual living animal.¹⁸⁹ And if we retain these two principles—that of proportionate attraction¹⁹⁰ and that of the non-participation of intelligence—we shall ascribe to the semen a faculty for attracting blood similar to that possessed by the lodestone for iron.¹⁹¹ Here, then, again, in the case of the semen, as in so many previous instances, we have been compelled to acknowledge some kind of attractive faculty.

And what is the semen? Clearly the active principle of the animal, the material principle being the menstrual blood.¹⁹² Next, seeing that the active principle employs this faculty primarily, therefore, in order that any one of the things fashioned by it may come into existence, it [the principle] must necessarily be possessed of its own faculty. How, then, was Erasistratus unaware of it, if the primary function of the semen be to draw to itself a due proportion of blood? Now, this fluid would be in due proportion if it were so thin and vaporous, that, as soon as it was drawn like dew into every part of the semen, it would everywhere cease to display its own particular character; for so the semen will easily dominate and quickly assimilate it—in fact, will use it as food. It will then, I imagine, draw to itself a second and a third quantum, and thus by feeding it acquires for itself considerable bulk and quantity.¹⁹³ In fact, *the alterative faculty* has now been discovered as well, although about this also Erasistratus has not written a word. And, thirdly the *shaping*¹⁹⁴ faculty will become evident, by virtue of which the semen firstly surrounds itself with a thin membrane like a kind of superficial condensation; this is what was described by Hippocrates in the sixth-day birth, which, according to his statement, fell from the singing-girl and resembled the pellicle of an egg. And following this all the other stages will occur, such as are described by him in his work "On the Child's Nature."

Pg 135
[Greek text](#)

But if each of the parts formed were to remain as small as when it first came into existence, of what use would that be? They have, then, to grow. Now, how will they grow? By becoming extended in all directions and at the same time receiving nourishment. And if you will recall what I previously said about the bladder which the children blew up and rubbed,¹⁹⁵ you will also understand my meaning better as expressed in what I am now about to say.

Pg 137
[Greek text](#)

Imagine the heart to be, at the beginning, so small as to differ in no respect from a millet-seed, or, if you will, a bean; and consider how otherwise it is to become large than by being extended in all directions and acquiring nourishment throughout its whole substance, in the way that, as I showed a short while ago, the semen is nourished. But even this was unknown to Erasistratus—the man who sings the artistic skill of Nature! He imagines that animals grow like webs, ropes, sacks, or baskets, each of which has, woven on to its end or margin, other material similar to that of which it was originally composed.

But this, most sapient sir, is not growth, but genesis! For a bag, sack, garment, house, ship, or the like is said to be still coming into existence [undergoing genesis] so long as the appropriate form for the sake of which it is being constructed by the artificer is still incomplete. Then, when does it grow? Only when the basket, being complete, with a bottom, a mouth, and a belly, as it were, as well as the intermediate parts, now becomes larger in all these respects. "And how can this happen?" someone will ask. Only by our basket suddenly becoming an animal or a plant; for growth belongs to living things alone. Possibly you imagine that a house *grows* when it is being built, or a basket when being plaited, or a garment when being woven? It is not so however. Growth belongs to that which has already been completed in respect to its form, whereas the process by which that which is still *becoming* attains its form is termed not growth but genesis. That which *is*, grows, while that which *is*

Pg 139
[Greek text](#)

IV

This also was unknown to Erasistratus, whom nothing escaped, if his followers speak in any way truly in maintaining that he was familiar with the Peripatetic philosophers. Now, in so far as he acclaims Nature as being an artist in construction, even I recognize the Peripatetic teachings, but in other respects he does not come near them. For if anyone will make himself acquainted with the writings of Aristotle and Theophrastus, these will appear to him to consist of commentaries on the Nature-lore [physiology]¹⁹⁶ of Hippocrates—according to which the principles of heat, cold, dryness and moisture act upon and are acted upon by one another, the hot principle being the most active, and the cold coming next to it in power; all this was stated in the first place by Hippocrates and secondly by Aristotle.¹⁹⁷ Further, it is at once the Hippocratic and the Aristotelian teaching that the parts which are being nourished receive that nourishment throughout their whole substance, and that, similarly, processes of *mingling* and *alteration* involve the entire substance.¹⁹⁸ Moreover, that digestion is a species of alteration—a transmutation of the nutriment into the proper quality of the thing receiving it; that blood-production also is an alteration, and nutrition as well; that growth results from extension in all directions, combined with nutrition; that alteration is effected mainly by the warm principle, and that therefore digestion, nutrition, and the generation of the various humours, as well as the qualities of the surplus substances, result from the *innate heat*;¹⁹⁹ all these and many other points besides in regard to the aforesaid faculties, the origin of diseases, and the discovery of remedies, were correctly stated first by Hippocrates of all writers whom we know, and were in the second place correctly expounded by Aristotle. Now, if all these views meet with the approval of the Peripatetics, as they undoubtedly do, and if none of them satisfy Erasistratus, what can the Erasistrateans possibly mean by claiming that their leader was associated with these philosophers? The fact is, they revere him as a god, and think that everything he says is true. If this be so, then we must suppose the Peripatetics to have strayed very far from truth, since they approve of none of the ideas of Erasistratus. And, indeed, the disciples of the latter produce his connection with the Peripatetics in order to furnish his Nature-lore with a respectable pedigree.

Pg 141
[Greek text](#)

Now, let us reverse our argument and put it in a different way from that which we have just employed. For if the Peripatetics were correct in their teaching about Nature, there could be nothing more absurd than the contentions of Erasistratus. And, I will leave it to the Erasistrateans themselves to decide; they must either advance the one proposition or the other. According to the former one the Peripatetics had no accurate acquaintance with Nature, and according to the second, Erasistratus. It is my task, then, to point out the opposition between the two doctrines, and theirs to make the choice....

Pg 143
[Greek text](#)

But they certainly will not abandon their reverence for Erasistratus. Very well, then; let them stop talking about the Peripatetic philosophers. For among the numerous physiological teachings regarding the genesis and destruction of animals, their health, their diseases, and the methods of treating these, there will be found one only which is common to Erasistratus and the Peripatetics—namely, the view that Nature does everything for some purpose, and nothing in vain.

But even as regards this doctrine their agreement is only verbal; in practice Erasistratus makes havoc of it a thousand times over. For, according to him, the spleen was made for no purpose, as also the omentum; similarly, too, the arteries which are inserted into kidneys²⁰⁰—although these are practically the largest of all those that spring from the great artery [aorta]! And to judge by the Erasistratean argument, there must be countless other useless structures; for, if he knows nothing at all about these structures, he has little more anatomical knowledge than a butcher, while, if he is acquainted with them and yet does not state their use, he clearly imagines that they were made for no purpose, like the spleen. Why, however, should I discuss these structures fully, belonging as they do to the treatise “On the Use of Parts,” which I am personally about to complete?

Let us, then, sum up again this same argument, and, having said a few words more in answer to the Erasistrateans, proceed to our next topic. The fact is, these people seem to me to have read none of Aristotle’s writings, but to have heard from others how great an authority he was on “Nature,” and that those of the Porch²⁰¹ follow in the steps of his Nature-lore; apparently they then discovered a single one of the current ideas which is common to Aristotle and Erasistratus, and made up some story of a connection between Erasistratus and these people.²⁰² That Erasistratus, however, has no share in the Nature-lore of Aristotle is shown by an enumeration of the aforesaid doctrines, which emanated first from Hippocrates, secondly from Aristotle, thirdly from the Stoics (with a single modification, namely, that for them the *qualities* are *bodies*).²⁰³

Pg 145
[Greek text](#)

Perhaps, however, they will maintain that it was in the matter of *logic* that

Erasistratus associated himself with the Peripatetic philosophers? Here they show ignorance of the fact that these philosophers never brought forward false or inconclusive arguments, while the Erasistratean books are full of them.

So perhaps somebody may already be asking, in some surprise, what possessed Erasistratus that he turned so completely from the doctrines of Hippocrates, and why it is that he takes away the attractive faculty from the biliary²⁰⁴ passages in the liver—for we have sufficiently discussed the kidneys—alleging [as the cause of bile-secretion] a favourable situation, the narrowness of vessels, and a *common space* into which the veins from the gateway [of the liver]²⁰⁵ conduct the unpurified blood, and from which, in the first place, the [biliary] passages take over the bile, and secondly, the [branches] of the vena cava take over the purified blood. For it would not only have done him no harm to have mentioned the idea of *attraction*, but he would thereby have been able to get rid of countless other disputed questions.

Pg 147
[Greek text](#)

V

At the actual moment, however, the Erasistrateans are engaged in a considerable battle, not only with others but also amongst themselves, and so they cannot explain the passage from the first book of the “General Principles,” in which Erasistratus says, “Since there are two kinds of vessels opening²⁰⁶ at the same place, the one kind extending to the gall-bladder and the other to the vena cava, the result is that, of the nutriment carried up from the alimentary canal, that part which fits both kinds of stomata is received into both kinds of vessels, some being carried into the gall-bladder, and the rest passing over into the vena cava.” For it is difficult to say what we are to understand by the words “opening at the same place” which are written at the beginning of this passage. Either they mean there is a *junction*²⁰⁷ between the termination of the vein which is on the concave surface of the liver²⁰⁸ and two other vascular terminations (that of the vessel on the convex surface of the liver²⁰⁹ and that of the bile-duct), or, if not, then we must suppose that there is, as it were, a common space for all three vessels, which becomes filled from the lower vein,²¹⁰ and empties itself both into the bile-duct and into the branches of the vena cava. Now, there are many difficulties in both of these explanations, but if I were to state them all, I should find myself inadvertently writing an exposition of the teaching of Erasistratus, instead of carrying out my original undertaking. There is, however, one difficulty common to both these explanations, namely, that the whole of the blood does not become purified. For it ought to fall into the bile-duct as into a kind of sieve, instead of going (running, in fact, rapidly) past it, into the larger stoma, by virtue of the impulse of *anadosis*.

Pg 149
[Greek text](#)

Are these, then, the only inevitable difficulties in which the argument of Erasistratus becomes involved through his disinclination to make any use of the attractive faculty, or is it that the difficulty is greatest here, and also so obvious that even a child could not avoid seeing it?

VI

And if one looks carefully into the matter one will find that even Erasistratus’s reasoning on the subject of *nutrition*, which he takes up in the second book of his “General Principles,” fails to escape this same difficulty. For, having conceded one premise to the principle that matter tends to fill a vacuum, as we previously showed, he was only able to draw a conclusion in the case of the veins and their contained blood.²¹¹ That is to say, when blood is running away through the stomata of the veins, and is being dispersed, then, since an absolutely empty space cannot result, and the veins cannot collapse (for this was what he overlooked), it was therefore shown to be necessary that the adjoining quantum of fluid should flow in and fill the place of the fluid evacuated. It is in this way that we may suppose the veins to be nourished; they get the benefit of the blood which they contain. But how about the nerves?²¹² For they do not also contain blood. One might obviously say that they draw their supply from the veins.²¹³ But Erasistratus will not have it so. What further contrivance, then, does he suppose? He says that a nerve has within itself veins and arteries, like a rope woven by Nature out of three different strands. By means of this hypothesis he imagined that his theory would escape from the idea of *attraction*. For if the nerve contain within itself a blood-vessel it will no longer need the adventitious flow of other blood from the real vein lying adjacent; this fictitious vessel, perceptible only in theory,²¹⁴ will suffice it for nourishment.

Pg 151
[Greek text](#)

But this, again, is succeeded by another similar difficulty. For this small vessel will nourish itself, but it will not be able to nourish this adjacent simple nerve or artery, unless these possess some innate proclivity for attracting nutriment. For how could the *nerve*, being simple, attract its nourishment, as do the composite veins, by virtue of the tendency of a vacuum to become refilled? For, although according to Erasistratus, it contains within itself a cavity of sorts, this is not occupied with blood, but with *psychic pneuma*,²¹⁵ and we are required to imagine the nutriment introduced, not into this cavity, but into the vessel containing it, whether it needs

Pg 153
[Greek text](#)

merely to be nourished, or to grow as well. How, then, are we to imagine it introduced? For this simple vessel [*i.e.* nerve] is so small—as are also the other two—that if you prick it at any part with the finest needle you will tear the whole three of them at once. Thus there could never be in it a perceptible space entirely empty. And an emptied space which merely existed in theory could not compel the adjacent fluid to come and fill it.

At this point, again, I should like Erasistratus himself to answer regarding this small elementary nerve, whether it is actually one and definitely continuous, or whether it consists of many small bodies, such as those assumed by Epicurus, Leucippus, and Democritus.²¹⁶ For I see that the Erasistrateans are at variance on this subject. Some of them consider it one and continuous, for otherwise, as they say, he would not have called it *simple*; and some venture to resolve it into yet other elementary bodies. But if it be one and continuous, then what is evacuated from it in the so-called *insensible transpiration* of the physicians will leave no empty space in it; otherwise it would not be one body but many, separated by empty spaces. But if it consists of many bodies, then we have “escaped by the back door,” as the saying is, to Asclepiades, seeing that we have postulated certain *inharmonious elements*. Once again, then, we must call Nature “inartistic”; for this necessarily follows the assumption of such elements.

Pg 155
[Greek text](#)

For this reason some of the Erasistrateans seem to me to have done very foolishly in reducing the simple vessels to elements such as these. Yet it makes no difference to me, since the theory of both parties regarding nutrition will be shown to be absurd. For in these minute simple vessels constituting the large perceptible nerves, it is impossible, according to the theory of those who would keep the former continuous, that any “refilling of a vacuum” should take place, since no vacuum can occur in a continuum even if anything does run away; for the parts left come together (as is seen in the case of water) and again become one, taking up the whole space of that which previously separated them. Nor will any “refilling” occur if we accept the argument of the other Erasistrateans, since none of their *elements* need it. For this principle only holds of things which are perceptible, and not of those which exist merely in theory; this Erasistratus expressly acknowledges, for he states that it is not a vacuum such as this, interspersed in small portions among the corpuscles, that his various treatises deal with, but a vacuum which is clear, perceptible, complete in itself, large in size, evident, or however else one cares to term it (for, what Erasistratus himself says is, that “there cannot be a perceptible space which is entirely empty”; while I, for my part, being abundantly equipped with terms which are equally elucidatory, at least in relation to the present topic of discussion, have added them as well).

Pg 157
[Greek text](#)

Thus it seems to me better that we also should help the Erasistrateans with some contribution, since we are on the subject, and should advise those who reduce the vessel called *primary* and *simple* by Erasistratus into other elementary bodies to give up their opinion; for not only do they gain nothing by it, but they are also at variance with Erasistratus in this matter. That they gain nothing by it has been clearly demonstrated; for this hypothesis could not escape the difficulty regarding *nutrition*. And it also seems perfectly evident to me that this hypothesis is not in consonance with the view of Erasistratus, when it declares that what he calls simple and primary is composite, and when it destroys the principle of Nature’s artistic skill.²¹⁷ For, if we do not grant a certain *unity of substance*²¹⁸ to these simple structures as well, and if we arrive eventually at *inharmonious* and indivisible elements,²¹⁹ we shall most assuredly deprive Nature of her artistic skill, as do all the physicians and philosophers who start from this hypothesis. For, according to such a hypothesis, Nature does not precede, but is secondary to the *parts* of the animal.²²⁰ Now, it is not the province of what comes secondarily, but of what pre-exists, to shape and to construct. Thus we must necessarily suppose that the faculties of Nature, by which she shapes the animal, and makes it grow and receive nourishment, are present from the seed onwards; whereas none of these *inharmonious* and non-partite corpuscles contains within itself any formative, incremental,²²¹ nutritive, or, in a word, any artistic power; it is, by hypothesis, unimpressionable and untransformable,²²² whereas, as we have previously shown,²²³ none of the processes mentioned takes place without transformation, alteration, and complete intermixture. And, owing to this necessity, those who belong to these sects are unable to follow out the consequences of their supposed elements, and they are all therefore forced to declare Nature devoid of art. It is not from us, however, that the Erasistrateans should have learnt this, but from those very philosophers who lay most stress on a preliminary investigation into the elements of all existing things.

Pg 159
[Greek text](#)

Now, one can hardly be right in supposing that Erasistratus could reach such a pitch of foolishness as to be incapable of recognizing the logical consequences of this theory, and that, while assuming Nature to be artistically creative, he would at the same time break up substance into insensible, *inharmonious*, and untransformable elements. If, however, he will grant that there occurs in the elements a process of alteration and transformation, and that there exists in them unity and continuity, then that *simple vessel* of his (as he himself names it) will turn out to be single and uncompounded. And the simple vein will receive nourishment from itself, and the

nerve and artery from the vein. How, and in what way? For, when we were at this point before, we drew attention to the disagreement among the Erasistrateans,²²⁴ and we showed that the nutrition of these simple vessels was impracticable according to the teachings of both parties, although we did not hesitate to adjudicate in their quarrel and to do Erasistratus the honour of placing him in the better sect.²²⁵

Pg 161
[Greek text](#)

Let our argument, then, be transferred again to the doctrine which assumes this *elementary nerve*²²⁶ to be a single, simple, and entirely unified structure, and let us consider how it is to be nourished; for what is discovered here will at once be found to be common also to the school of Hippocrates.

It seems to me that our enquiry can be most rigorously pursued in subjects who are suffering from illness and have become very emaciated, since in these people all parts of the body are obviously atrophied and thin, and in need of additional substance and feeding-up; for the same reason the ordinary *perceptible* nerve, regarding which we originally began this discussion, has become thin, and requires nourishment. Now, this contains within itself various parts, namely, a great many of these primary, invisible, minute nerves, a few simple arteries, and similarly also veins. Thus, all its elementary nerves have themselves also obviously become emaciated; for, if they had not, neither would the nerve as a whole; and of course, in such a case, the whole nerve cannot require nourishment without each of these requiring it too. Now, if on the one hand they stand in need of feeding-up, and if on the other the principle of the refilling of a vacuum²²⁷ can give them no help—both by reason of the difficulties previously mentioned and the actual thinness, as I shall show—we must then seek another cause for nutrition.

Pg 163
[Greek text](#)

How is it, then, that the tendency of a vacuum to become refilled is unable to afford nourishment to one in such a condition? Because its rule is that only so much of the contiguous matter should succeed as has flowed away. Now this is sufficient for nourishment in the case of those who are in good condition, for, in them, what is *presented*²²⁸ must be equal to what has flowed away. But in the case of those who are very emaciated and who need a great restoration of nutrition, unless what was presented were many times greater than what has been emptied out, they would never be able to regain their original habit. It is clear, therefore, that these parts will have to exert a greater amount of *attraction*, in so far as their requirements are greater. And I fail to understand how Erasistratus does not perceive that here again he is putting the cart before the horse. Because, in the case of the sick, there must be a large amount of *presentation*²²⁸ in order to feed them up, he argues that the factor of “refilling”²²⁷ must play an equally large part. And how could much *presentation* take place if it were not preceded by an abundant *delivery*²²⁹ of nutriment? And if he calls the conveyance of food through the veins delivery, and its assumption by each of these simple and visible nerves and arteries not delivery but *distribution*,²³⁰ as some people have thought fit to name it, and then ascribes conveyance through the veins to the principle of vacuum-refilling alone, let him explain to us the assumption of food by the hypothetical elements.²³¹ For it has been shown that at least in relation to these there is no question of the refilling of a vacuum being in operation, and especially where the parts are very attenuated. It is worth while listening to what Erasistratus says about these cases in the second book of his “General Principles”: “In the ultimate simple [vessels], which are thin and narrow, presentation takes place from the adjacent vessels, the nutriment being attracted through the sides of the vessels and deposited in the empty spaces left by the matter which has been carried away.” Now, in this statement firstly I admit and accept the words “through the sides.” For, if the simple nerve were actually to take in the food through its mouth, it could not distribute it through its whole substance; for the mouth is dedicated to the psychic pneuma.²³² It can, however, take it in through its sides from the adjacent simple vein. Secondly, I also accept in Erasistratus’s statement the expression which precedes “through the sides.” What does this say? “The nutriment being attracted through the sides of the vessels.” Now I, too, agree that it is attracted, but it has been previously shown that this is not through the tendency of evacuated matter to be replaced.

Pg 165
[Greek text](#)

VII

Let us, then, consider together how it is attracted. How else than in the way that iron is attracted by the lodestone, the latter having a faculty attractive of this particular quality [existing in iron]?²³³ But if the beginning of anadosis depends on the squeezing action of the stomach,²³⁴ and the whole movement thereafter on the peristalsis and propulsive action of the veins, as well as on the traction exerted by each of the parts which are undergoing nourishment, then we can abandon the principle of replacement of evacuated matter, as not being suitable for a man who assumes Nature to be a skilled artist; thus we shall also have avoided the contradiction of Asclepiades²³⁵ though we cannot refute it: for the disjunctive argument used for the purposes of demonstration is, in reality, disjunctive not of two but of three alternatives; now, if we treat the disjunction as a disjunction of two alternatives, one of the two propositions assumed in constructing our proof must be

Pg 167
[Greek text](#)

VIII

Now Erasistratus ought not to have been ignorant of this if he had ever had anything to do with the Peripatetics—even in a dream. Nor, similarly, should he have been unacquainted with the genesis of the *humours*, about which, not having even anything moderately plausible to say, he thinks to deceive us by the excuse that the consideration of such matters is not the least useful. Then, in Heaven's name, is it useful to know how food is digested in the stomach, but unnecessary to know how *bile* comes into existence in the veins? Are we to pay attention merely to the evacuation of this humour, and not to its genesis? As though it were not far better to prevent its excessive development from the beginning than to give ourselves all the trouble of expelling it!²³⁶ And it is a strange thing to be entirely unaware as to whether its genesis is to be looked on as taking place in the body, or whether it comes from without and is contained in the food. For, if it was right to raise this problem, why should we not make investigations concerning the *blood* as well—whether it takes its origin in the body, or is distributed through the food as is maintained by those who postulate *homœmeries*?²³⁷ Assuredly it would be much more useful to investigate what kinds of food are suited, and what kinds unsuited, to the process of blood-production²³⁸ rather than to enquire into what articles of diet are easily mastered by the activity of the stomach, and what resist and contend with it. For the choice of the latter bears reference merely to digestion, while that of the former is of importance in regard to the generation of useful blood. For it is not equally important whether the aliment be imperfectly chylified²³⁹ in the stomach or whether it fail to be turned into useful blood. Why is Erasistratus not ashamed to distinguish all the various kinds of digestive failure and all the occasions which give rise to them, whilst in reference to the errors of blood-production he does not utter a single word—nay, not a syllable? Now, there is certainly to be found in the veins both thick and thin blood; in some people it is redder, in others yellower, in some blacker, in others more of the nature of phlegm. And one who realizes that it may smell offensively not in one way only, but in a great many different respects (which cannot be put into words, although perfectly appreciable to the senses), would, I imagine, condemn in no measured terms the carelessness of Erasistratus in omitting a consideration so essential to the practice of our art.

Pg 169
[Greek text](#)

Thus it is clear what errors in regard to the subject of *dropsies* logically follow this carelessness. For, does it not show the most extreme carelessness to suppose that the blood is prevented from going forward into the liver owing to the *narrowness of the passages*, and that dropsy can never occur in any other way? For, to imagine that dropsy is never caused by the spleen²⁴⁰ or any other part, but always by induration of the liver,²⁴¹ is the standpoint of a man whose intelligence is perfectly torpid and who is quite out of touch with things that happen every day. For, not merely once or twice, but frequently, we have observed dropsy produced by chronic haemorrhoids which have been suppressed,²⁴² or which, through immoderate bleeding, have given the patient a severe chill; similarly, in women, the complete disappearance of the monthly discharge,²⁴³ or an undue evacuation such as is caused by violent bleeding from the womb, often provoke dropsy; and in some of them the so-called female flux ends in this disorder. I leave out of account the dropsy which begins in the flanks or in any other susceptible part; this clearly confutes Erasistratus's assumption, although not so obviously as does that kind of dropsy which is brought about by an excessive chilling of the whole constitution; this, which is the primary reason for the occurrence of dropsy, results from a failure of blood-production,²⁴⁴ very much like the diarrhoea which follows imperfect digestion of food; certainly in this kind of dropsy neither the liver nor any other viscus becomes indurated.

Pg 171
[Greek text](#)

The learned Erasistratus, however, overlooks—nay, despises—what neither Hippocrates, Diocles, Praxagoras, nor Philistion²⁴⁵ despised, nor indeed any of the best philosophers, whether Plato, Aristotle, or Theophrastus; he passes by whole functions as though it were but a trifling and casual department of medicine which he was neglecting, without deigning to argue whether or not these authorities are right in saying that the bodily parts of all animals are governed by the Warm, the Cold, the Dry and the Moist, the one pair being active and the other passive, and that among these the Warm has most power in connection with all functions, but especially with the genesis of the humours.²⁴⁶ Now, one cannot be blamed for not agreeing with all these great men, nor for imagining that one knows more than they; but not to consider such distinguished teaching worthy either of contradiction or even mention shows an extraordinary arrogance.

Pg 173
[Greek text](#)

Now, Erasistratus is thoroughly small-minded and petty to the last degree in all his disputations—when, for instance, in his treatise "On Digestion,"²⁴⁷ he argues jealously with those who consider that this is a process of putrefaction of the food; and, in his work "On Anadosis,"²⁴⁸ with those who think that the anadosis of blood through the veins results from the contiguity of the arteries; also, in his work "On Respiration," with those who maintain that the air is forced along by contraction.

Pg 175
[Greek text](#)

Nay, he did not even hesitate to contradict those who maintain that the urine passes into the bladder in a vaporous state,²⁴⁹ as also those who say that imbibed fluids are carried into the lung. Thus he delights to choose always the most valueless doctrines, and to spend his time more and more in contradicting these; whereas on the subject of the *origin of blood* (which is in no way less important than the chyfication²⁵⁰ of food in the stomach) he did not deign to dispute with any of the ancients, nor did he himself venture to bring forward any other opinion, despite the fact that at the beginning of his treatise on "General Principles" he undertook to say how all the various natural functions take place, and through what parts of the animal! Now, is it possible that, when the faculty which naturally digests food is weak, the animal's digestion fails, whereas the faculty which turns the digested food into blood cannot suffer any kind of impairment?²⁵¹ Are we to suppose this latter faculty alone to be as tough as steel and unaffected by circumstances? Or is it that weakness of this faculty will result in something else than dropsy? The fact, therefore, that Erasistratus, in regard to other matters, did not hesitate to attack even the most trivial views, whilst in this case he neither dared to contradict his predecessors nor to advance any new view of his own, proves plainly that he recognized the fallacy of his own way of thinking.²⁵²

Pg 177
[Greek text](#)

For what could a man possibly say about blood who had no use for *innate heat*? What could he say about yellow or black bile, or phlegm? Well, of course, he might say that the bile could come directly from without, mingled with the food! Thus Erasistratus practically says so in the following words: "It is of no value in practical medicine to find out whether a fluid of this kind²⁵³ arises from the elaboration of food in the stomach-region, or whether it reaches the body because it is mixed with the food taken in from outside." But, my very good Sir, you most certainly maintain also that this humour has to be evacuated from the animal, and that it causes great pain if it be not evacuated. How, then, if you suppose that no good comes from the bile, do you venture to say that an investigation into its origin is of no value in medicine?

Well, let us suppose that it is contained in the food, and not specifically secreted in the liver (for you hold these two things possible). In this case, it will certainly make a considerable difference whether the ingested food contains a minimum or a maximum of bile; for the one kind is harmless, whereas that containing a large quantity of bile, owing to the fact that it cannot be properly purified²⁵⁴ in the liver, will result in the various affections—particularly jaundice—which Erasistratus himself states to occur where there is much bile. Surely, then, it is most essential for the physician to know in the first place, that the bile is contained in the food itself from outside, and, secondly, that for example, beet contains a great deal of bile, and bread very little, while olive oil contains most, and wine least of all, and all the other articles of diet different quantities. Would it not be absurd for any one to choose voluntarily those articles which contain more bile, rather than those containing less?

Pg 179
[Greek text](#)

What, however, if the bile is not contained in the food, but comes into existence in the animal's body? Will it not also be useful to know what *state of the body* is followed by a greater, and what by a smaller occurrence of bile?²⁵⁵ For obviously it is in our power to alter and transmute morbid states of the body—in fact, to give them a turn for the better. But if we did not know in what respect they were morbid or in what way they diverged from the normal, how should we be able to ameliorate them?

Therefore it is not useless in treatment, as Erasistratus says, to know the actual truth about the genesis of bile. Certainly it is not impossible, or even difficult to discover that the reason why *honey* produces yellow bile is not that it contains a large quantity of this within itself, but because it [the honey] undergoes change, becoming *altered* and transmuted into bile. For it would be bitter to the taste if it contained bile from the outset, and it would produce an equal quantity of bile in every person who took it. The facts, however, are not so.²⁵⁶ For in those who are in the prime of life, especially if they are warm by nature and are leading a life of toil, the honey changes entirely into yellow bile. Old people, however, it suits well enough, inasmuch as the alteration which it undergoes is not into bile, but into blood. Erasistratus, however, in addition to knowing nothing about this, shows no intelligence even in the division of his argument; he says that it is of no practical importance to investigate whether the bile is contained in the food from the beginning or comes into existence as a result of gastric digestion. He ought surely to have added something about its genesis in liver and veins, seeing that the old physicians and philosophers declare that it along with the blood is generated in these organs. But it is inevitable that people who, from the very outset, go astray, and wander from the right road, should talk such nonsense, and should, over and above this, neglect to search for the factors of most practical importance in medicine.

Pg 181
[Greek text](#)

Having come to this point in the argument, I should like to ask those who declare that Erasistratus was very familiar with the Peripatetics, whether they know what Aristotle stated and demonstrated with regard to our bodies being compounded out of the Warm, the Cold, the Dry and the Moist, and how he says that among these the Warm is the most active, and that those animals which are by nature warmest have abundance of blood, whilst those that are colder are entirely lacking in blood, and

Pg 183

consequently in winter lie idle and motionless, lurking in holes like corpses. Further, the question of the colour of the blood has been dealt with not only by Aristotle but also by Plato.²⁵⁷ Now I, for my part, as I have already said, did not set before myself the task of stating what has been so well demonstrated by the Ancients, since I cannot surpass these men either in my views or in my method of giving them expression. Doctrines, however, which they either stated without demonstration, as being self-evident (since they never suspected that there could be sophists so degraded as to condemn the truth in these matters), or else which they actually omitted to mention at all—these I propose to discover and prove.

[Greek text](#)

Now in reference to the *genesis of the humours*, I do not know that any one could add anything wiser than what has been said by Hippocrates, Aristotle, Praxagoras, Philotimus²⁵⁸ and many other among the Ancients. These men demonstrated that when the nutriment becomes altered in the veins by the innate heat, blood is produced when it is in moderation, and the other humours when it is not in proper proportion. And all the observed facts²⁵⁹ agree with this argument. Thus, those articles of food, which are by nature warmer are more productive of bile, while those which are colder produce more phlegm. Similarly of the periods of life, those which are naturally warmer tend more to bile, and the colder more to phlegm. Of occupations also, localities and seasons, and, above all, of natures²⁶⁰ themselves, the colder are more phlegmatic, and the warmer more bilious. Also cold diseases result from phlegm, and warmer ones from yellow bile. There is not a single thing to be found which does not bear witness to the truth of this account. How could it be otherwise? For, seeing that every part functions in its own special way because of the manner in which the four qualities are compounded, it is absolutely necessary that the function [activity] should be either completely destroyed, or, at least hampered, by any damage to the qualities, and that thus the animal should fall ill, either as a whole, or in certain of its parts.

Pg 185

[Greek text](#)

Also the diseases which are primary and most generic are four in number, and differ from each other in warmth, cold, dryness and moisture. Now, Erasistratus himself confesses this, albeit unintentionally;²⁶¹ for when he says that the digestion of food becomes worse in fever, not because the innate heat has ceased to be in due proportion, as people previously supposed, but because the stomach, with its activity impaired, cannot contract and triturate as before—then, I say, one may justly ask him what it is that has impaired the activity of the stomach.

Thus, for example, when a bubo develops following an accidental wound²⁶² gastric digestion does not become impaired *until after the patient has become fevered*; neither the bubo nor the sore of itself impedes in any way or damages the activity of the stomach. But if fever occurs, the digestion at once deteriorates, and we are also right in saying that the activity of the stomach at once becomes impaired. We must add, however, by what it has been impaired. For the wound was not capable of impairing it, nor yet the bubo, for, if they had been, then they would have caused this damage before the fever as well. If it was not these that caused it, then it was the excess of heat²⁶³ (for these two symptoms occurred besides the bubo—an alteration in the arterial and cardiac movements²⁶⁴ and an excessive development of natural heat). Now the alteration of these movements will not merely not impair the function of the stomach in any way: it will actually prove an additional help among those animals in which, according to Erasistratus, the *pneuma*, which is propelled through the arteries and into the alimentary canal, is of great service in digestion;²⁶⁵ there is only left, then, the disproportionate heat to account for the damage to the gastric activity. For the pneuma is driven in more vigorously and continuously, and in greater quantity now than before; thus in this case, the animal whose digestion is promoted by pneuma will digest more, whereas the remaining factor—abnormal heat—will give them indigestion. For to say, on the one hand, that the pneuma has a certain property by virtue of which it promotes digestion, and then to say that this property disappears in cases of fever, is simply to admit the absurdity. For when they are again asked what it is that has altered the pneuma, they will only be able to reply, “the abnormal heat,” and particularly if it be the pneuma in the food canal which is in question (since this does not come in any way near the bubo).

Pg 187

[Greek text](#)

Yet why do I mention those animals in which the property of the pneuma plays an important part, when it is possible to base one’s argument upon human beings, in whom it is either of no importance at all, or acts quite faintly and feebly?²⁶⁶ But Erasistratus himself agrees that human beings digest badly in fevers, adding as the cause that the activity of the stomach has been impaired. He cannot, however, advance any other cause of this impairment than abnormal heat. But if it is not by accident that the abnormal heat impairs this activity, but by virtue of its own essence and power, then this abnormal heat must belong to the *primary diseases*. But, indeed, if *disproportion* of heat belongs to the primary diseases, it cannot but be that a *proportionate* blending [eucrasia] of the qualities produces the normal activity.²⁶⁷ For a disproportionate blend [dyscrasia] can only become a cause of the primary diseases through derangement of the eucrasia. That is to say, it is because the [normal] activities arise from the eucrasia that the primary impairments of these activities necessarily arise from its derangement.

Pg 189

[Greek text](#)

I think, then, it has been proved to the satisfaction of those people who are capable of seeing logical consequences, that, even according to Erasistratus's own argument, the cause of the normal functions is eucrasia of the Warm.²⁶⁸ Now, this being so, there is nothing further to prevent us from saying that, in the case of each function, eucrasia is followed by the more, and dyscrasia by the less favourable alternative. And, therefore, if this be the case, we must suppose blood to be the outcome of proportionate, and yellow bile of disproportionate heat. So we naturally find yellow bile appearing in greatest quantity in ourselves at the warm periods of life, in warm countries, at warm seasons of the year, and when we are in a warm condition; similarly in people of warm temperaments, and in connection with warm occupations, modes of life, or diseases.

Pg 191
[Greek text](#)

And to be in doubt as to whether this humour has its genesis in the human body or is contained in the food is what you would expect from one who has—I will not say failed to see that, when those who are perfectly healthy have, under the compulsion of circumstances, to fast contrary to custom, their mouths become bitter and their urine bile-coloured, while they suffer from gnawing pains in the stomach—but has, as it were, just made a sudden entrance into the world, and is not yet familiar with the phenomena which occur there. Who, in fact, does not know that anything which is overcooked grows at first salt and afterwards bitter? And if you will boil honey itself, far the sweetest of all things, you can demonstrate that even this becomes quite bitter. For what may occur as a result of boiling in the case of other articles which are not warm by nature, exists naturally in honey; for this reason it does not become sweeter on being boiled, since exactly the same quantity of heat as is needed for the production of sweetness exists from beforehand in the honey. Therefore the external heat, which would be useful for insufficiently warm substances, becomes in the honey a source of damage, in fact an excess; and it is for this reason that honey, when boiled, can be demonstrated to become bitter sooner than the others. For the same reason it is easily transmuted into bile in those people who are naturally warm, or in their prime, since warm when associated with warm becomes readily changed into a disproportionate combination and turns into bile sooner than into blood. Thus we need a cold temperament and a cold period of life if we would have honey brought to the nature of blood.²⁶⁹ Therefore Hippocrates not improperly advised those who were naturally bilious not to take honey, since they were obviously of too warm a temperament. So also, not only Hippocrates, but all physicians say that honey is bad in bilious diseases but good in old age; some of them having discovered this through the indications afforded by its nature, and others simply through experiment,²⁷⁰ for the Empiricist physicians too have made precisely the same observation, namely, that honey is good for an old man and not for a young one, that it is harmful for those who are naturally bilious, and serviceable for those who are phlegmatic. In a word, in bodies which are warm either through nature, disease, time of life, season of the year, locality, or occupation, honey is productive of bile, whereas in opposite circumstances it produces blood.

Pg 193
[Greek text](#)

But surely it is impossible that the same article of diet can produce in certain persons bile and in others blood, if it be not that the genesis of these humours is accomplished *in the body*. For if all articles of food contained bile from the beginning and of themselves, and did not produce it by undergoing change in the animal body, then they would produce it similarly in all bodies; the food which was bitter to the taste would, I take it, be productive of bile, while that which tasted good and sweet would not generate even the smallest quantity of bile. Moreover, not only honey but all other sweet substances are readily converted into bile in the aforesaid bodies which are warm for any of the reasons mentioned.

Pg 195
[Greek text](#)

Well, I have somehow or other been led into this discussion,—not in accordance with my plan, but compelled by the course of the argument. This subject has been treated at great length by Aristotle and Praxagoras, who have correctly expounded the view of Hippocrates and Plato.

IX

For this reason the things that we have said are not to be looked upon as proofs but rather as indications of the dulness²⁷¹ of those who think differently, and who do not even recognise what is agreed on by everyone and is a matter of daily observation. As for the scientific proofs of all this, they are to be drawn from these principles of which I have already spoken²⁷²—namely, that bodies act upon and are acted upon by each other in virtue of the Warm, Cold, Moist and Dry. And if one is speaking of any activity, whether it be exercised by vein, liver, arteries, heart, alimentary canal, or any part, one will be inevitably compelled to acknowledge that this activity depends upon the way in which the four qualities are blended. Thus I should like to ask the Erasistrateans why it is that the stomach contracts upon the food, and why the veins generate blood. There is no use in recognizing the mere fact of contraction, without also knowing the *cause*; if we know this, we shall also be able to rectify the failures of function. "This is no concern of ours," they say; "we do not occupy ourselves with such causes as these; they are outside the sphere of the *practitioner*,"²⁷³ and belong

Pg 197
[Greek text](#)

to that of the *scientific investigator*.”²⁷⁴ Are you, then, going to oppose those who maintain that the cause of the function of every organ is a natural eucrasia,²⁷⁵ that the dyscrasia is itself known as a *disease*, and that it is certainly by this that the activity becomes impaired? Or, on the other hand, will you be convinced by the proofs which the ancient writers furnished? Or will you take a midway course between these two, neither perforce accepting these arguments as true nor contradicting them as false, but suddenly becoming sceptics—Pyrrhonists, in fact? But if you do this you will have to shelter yourselves behind the Empiricist teaching. For how are you going to be successful in treatment, if you do not understand the real essence of each disease? Why, then, did you not call yourselves Empiricists from the beginning? Why do you confuse us by announcing that you are investigating natural activities with a view to treatment? If the stomach is, in a particular case, unable to exercise its peristaltic and grinding functions, how are we going to bring it back to the normal if we do not know the *cause* of its disability? What I say is²⁷⁶ that we must cool the over-heated stomach and warm the chilled one; so also we must moisten the one which has become dried up, and conversely; so, too, in combinations of these conditions; if the stomach becomes at the same time warmer and drier than normally, the first principle of treatment is at once to chill and moisten it; and if it become colder and moister, it must be warmed and dried; so also in other cases. But how on earth are the followers of Erasistratus going to act, confessing as they do that they make no sort of investigation into the cause of disease? For the fruit of the enquiry into activities is that by knowing the causes of the dyscrasiae one may bring them back to the normal, since it is of no use for the purposes of treatment merely to know what the activity of each organ is.

Pg 199
[Greek text](#)

Now, it seems to me that Erasistratus is unaware of this fact also, that the actual disease is that condition of the body which, not accidentally, but primarily and of itself, impairs the normal function. How, then, is he going to diagnose or cure diseases if he is entirely ignorant of what they are, and of what kind and number? As regards the stomach, certainly, Erasistratus held that one should at least investigate *how* it digests the food. But why was not investigation also made as to the primary originative cause of this? And, as regards the veins and the blood, he omitted even to ask the question “*how?*”

Pg 201
[Greek text](#)

Yet neither Hippocrates nor any of the other physicians or philosophers whom I mentioned a short while ago thought it right to omit this; they say that when the heat which exists naturally in every animal is well blended and moderately moist it generates blood; for this reason they also say that the blood is a *virtually* warm and moist humour, and similarly also that yellow bile is warm and dry, even though for the most part it appears moist. (For in them the *apparently* dry would seem to differ from the *virtually* dry.) Who does not know that brine and sea-water preserve meat and keep it uncorrupted,²⁷⁷ whilst all other water—the drinkable kind—readily spoils and rots it? And who does not know that when yellow bile is contained in large quantity in the stomach, we are troubled with an unquenchable thirst, and that when we vomit this up, we at once become much freer from thirst than if we had drunk very large quantities of fluid? Therefore this humour has been very properly termed warm, and also *virtually* dry. And, similarly, *phlegm* has been called cold and moist; for about this also clear proofs have been given by Hippocrates and the other Ancients.

Prodicus²⁷⁸ also, when in his book “On the Nature of Man” he gives the name “phlegm” (from the verb *πεφλέχθαι*) to that element in the humours which has been burned or, as it were, over-roasted, while using a different terminology, still keeps to the fact just as the others do; this man’s innovations in nomenclature have also been amply done justice to by Plato.²⁷⁹ Thus, the white-coloured substance which everyone else calls *phlegm*, and which Prodicus calls *blenna* [mucus],²⁸⁰ is the well-known cold, moist humour which collects mostly in old people and in those who have been chilled²⁸¹ in some way, and not even a lunatic could say that this was anything else than cold and moist.

Pg 203
[Greek text](#)

If, then, there is a warm and moist humour, and another which is warm and dry, and yet another which is moist and cold, is there none which is *virtually cold and dry*? Is the fourth combination of temperaments, which exists in all other things, non-existent in the humours alone? No; the *black bile* is such a humour. This, according to intelligent physicians and philosophers, tends to be in excess, as regards seasons, mainly in the fall of the year, and, as regards ages, mainly after the prime of life. And, similarly, also they say that there are cold and dry modes of life, regions, constitutions, and diseases. Nature, they suppose, is not defective in this single combination like the three other combinations, it extends everywhere.

At this point, also, I would gladly have been able to ask Erasistratus whether his “artistic” Nature has not constructed any organ for *clearing away* a humour such as this. For whilst there are two organs for the excretion of urine, and another of considerable size for that of yellow bile, does the humour which is more pernicious than these wander about persistently in the veins mingled with the blood? Yet Hippocrates says, “Dysentery is a fatal condition if it proceeds from black bile”; while

Pg 205
[Greek text](#)

that proceeding from yellow bile is by no means deadly, and most people recover from it; this proves how much more pernicious and acrid in its potentialities is black than yellow bile. Has Erasistratus, then, not read the book, "On the Nature of Man," any more than any of the rest of Hippocrates's writings, that he so carelessly passes over the consideration of the humours? Or, does he know it, and yet voluntarily neglect one of the finest studies²⁸² in medicine? Thus he ought not to have said anything about the *spleen*,²⁸³ nor have stultified himself by holding that an artistic Nature would have prepared so large an organ for no purpose. As a matter of fact, not only Hippocrates and Plato—who are no less authorities on Nature than is Erasistratus—say that this viscus also is one of those which cleanse the blood, but there are thousands of the ancient physicians and philosophers as well who are in agreement with them. Now, all of these the high and mighty Erasistratus affected to despise, and he neither contradicted them nor even so much as mentioned their opinion. Hippocrates, indeed, says that the spleen wastes in those people in whom the body is in good condition, and all those physicians also who base themselves on experience²⁸⁴ agree with this. Again, in those cases in which the spleen is large and is increasing from internal suppuration, it destroys the body and fills it with evil humours;²⁸⁵ this again is agreed on, not only by Hippocrates, but also by Plato and many others, including the Empiric physicians. And the jaundice which occurs when the spleen is out of order is darker in colour, and the cicatrices of ulcers are dark. For, generally speaking, when the spleen is drawing the atrabiliary²⁸⁶ humour into itself to a less degree than is proper, the blood is unpurified, and the whole body takes on a bad colour. And when does it draw this in to a less degree than proper? Obviously, when it [the spleen] is in a bad condition. Thus, just as the kidneys, whose function it is to attract the urine, do this badly when they are out of order, so also the spleen, which has in itself a native power of attracting an atrabiliary quality,²⁸⁷ if it ever happens to be weak, must necessarily exercise this attraction badly, with the result that the blood becomes thicker and darker.

Pg 207
[Greek text](#)

Now all these points, affording as they do the greatest help in the diagnosis and in the cure of disease were entirely passed over by Erasistratus, and he pretended to despise these great men—he who does not despise ordinary people, but always jealously attacks the most absurd doctrines. Hence, it was clearly because he had nothing to say against the statements made by the ancients regarding the function and utility of the spleen, and also because he could discover nothing new himself, that he ended by saying nothing at all. I, however, for my part, have demonstrated, firstly from the *causes* by which everything throughout nature is governed (by the causes I mean the Warm, Cold, Dry and Moist) and secondly, from obvious bodily phenomena, that there must needs be a cold and dry humour.²⁸⁸ And having in the next place drawn attention to the fact that this humour is black bile [atrabiliary] and that the viscus which clears it away is the spleen—having pointed this out by help of as few as possible of the proofs given by ancient writers, I shall now proceed to what remains of the subject in hand.

Pg 209
[Greek text](#)

What else, then, remains but to explain clearly what it is that happens in the generation of the humours, according to the belief and demonstration of the Ancients? This will be more clearly understood from a comparison. Imagine, then, some new wine which has been not long ago pressed from the grape, and which is fermenting and undergoing *alteration* through the agency of its contained heat.²⁸⁹ Imagine next two residual substances produced during this process of alteration, the one tending to be light and air-like and the other to be heavy and more of the nature of earth; of these the one, as I understand, they call the *flower* and the other the *lees*. Now you may correctly compare yellow bile to the first of these, and black bile to the latter, although these humours have not the same appearance when the animal is in normal health as that which they often show when it is not so; for then the yellow bile becomes *vitelline*,²⁹⁰ being so termed because it becomes like the yolk of an egg, both in colour and density; and again, even the black bile itself becomes much more malignant than when in its normal condition,²⁹¹ but no particular name has been given to [such a condition of] the humour, except that some people have called it *corrosive* or *acetose*, because it also becomes sharp like vinegar and corrodes the animal's body—as also the earth, if it be poured out upon it—and it produces a kind of fermentation and seething, accompanied by bubbles—an abnormal putrefaction having become added to the natural condition of the black humour. It seems to me also that most of the ancient physicians give the name *black humour* and not *black bile* to the normal portion of this humour, which is discharged from the bowel and which also frequently rises to the top [of the stomach-contents]; and they call *black bile* that part which, through a kind of combustion and putrefaction, has had its quality changed to acid. There is no need, however, to dispute about names, but we must realise the facts, which are as follow:—

Pg 211
[Greek text](#)

In the genesis of blood, everything in the nutriment²⁹² which belongs naturally to the thick and earth-like part of the food,²⁹² and which does not take on well the alteration produced by the innate heat—all this the spleen draws into itself. On the other hand, that part of the nutriment which is roasted, so to speak, or burnt (this will be the warmest and sweetest part of it, like honey and fat), becomes *yellow bile*, and is cleared away through the so-called biliary²⁹³ vessels; now, this is thin, moist, and

fluid, not like what it is when, having been roasted to an *excessive* degree, it becomes yellow, fiery, and thick, like the yolk of eggs; for this latter is already abnormal, while the previously mentioned state is natural. Similarly with the black humour: that which does not yet produce, as I say, this seething and fermentation on the ground, is natural, while that which has taken over this character and faculty is unnatural; it has assumed an acidity owing to the combustion caused by abnormal heat, and has practically become transformed into ashes.²⁹⁴ In somewhat the same way burned lees differ from unburned. The former is a warm substance, able to burn, dissolve, and destroy the flesh. The other kind, which has not yet undergone combustion, one may find the physicians employing for the same purposes that one uses the so-called *potter's earth* and other substances which have naturally a combined drying and chilling action.

Pg 213
[Greek text](#)

Now the vitelline bile also may take on the appearance of this combusted black bile, if ever it chance to be roasted, so to say, by fiery heat. And all the other forms of bile are produced, some from a blending of those mentioned, others being, as it were, transition-stages in the genesis of these or in their conversion into one another. And they differ in that those first mentioned are unmixed and unique, while the latter forms are diluted with various kinds of *serum*. And all the serums in the humours are waste substances, and the animal body needs to be purified from them. There is, however, a natural use for the humours first mentioned, both thick and thin; the blood is purified both by the spleen and by the bladder beside the liver, and a part of each of the two humours is put away, of such quantity and quality that, if it were carried all over the body, it would do a certain amount of harm. For that which is decidedly thick and earthy in nature, and has entirely escaped alteration in the liver, is drawn by the spleen into itself²⁹⁵; the other part which is only moderately thick, after being elaborated [in the liver], is carried all over the body. For the blood in many parts of the body has need of a certain amount of thickening, as also, I take it, of the *fibres* which it contains. And the use of these has been discussed by Plato,²⁹⁶ and it will also be discussed by me in such of my treatises as may deal with the use of parts. And the blood also needs, not least, the yellow humour, which has as yet not reached the extreme stage of combustion; in the treatises mentioned it will be pointed out what purpose is subserved by this.

Pg 215
[Greek text](#)

Now Nature has made no organ for clearing away *phlegm*, this being cold and moist, and, as it were, half-digested nutriment; such a substance, therefore, does not need to be evacuated, but remains in the body and undergoes *alteration* there. And perhaps one cannot properly give the name of *phlegm* to the surplus-substance which runs down from the brain,²⁹⁷ but one should call it *mucus* [blenna] or *coryza*—as, in fact, it is actually termed; in any case it will be pointed out, in the treatise “On the Use of Parts,” how Nature has provided for the evacuation of this substance. Further, the device provided by Nature which ensures that the phlegm which forms in the stomach and intestines may be evacuated in the most rapid and effective way possible—this also will be described in that commentary. As to that portion of the phlegm which is carried in the veins, seeing that this is of service to the animal it requires no evacuation. Here too, then, we must pay attention and recognise that, just as in the case of each of the two kinds of bile, there is one part which is useful to the animal and in accordance with its nature, while the other part is useless and contrary to nature, so also is it with the phlegm; such of it as is sweet is useful to the animal and according to nature, while, as to such of it as has become bitter or salt, that part which is bitter is completely undigested, while that part which is salt has undergone putrefaction. And the term “*complete indigestion*” refers of course to the second digestion—that which takes place in the veins; it is not a failure of the first digestion—that in the alimentary canal—for it would not have become a humour at the outset if it had escaped this digestion also.

Pg 217
[Greek text](#)

It seems to me that I have made enough reference to what has been said regarding the genesis and destruction of humours by Hippocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Praxagoras, and Diocles, and many others among the Ancients; I did not deem it right to transport the whole of their final pronouncements into this treatise. I have said only so much regarding each of the humours as will stir up the reader, unless he be absolutely inept, to make himself familiar with the writings of the Ancients, and will help him to gain more easy access to them. In another treatise²⁹⁸ I have written on the humours according to Praxagoras, son of Nicarchus; although this authority makes as many as ten humours, not including the blood (the blood itself being an eleventh), this is not a departure from the teaching of Hippocrates; for Praxagoras divides into species and varieties the humours which Hippocrates first mentioned, with the demonstration proper to each.

Pg 219
[Greek text](#)

Those, then, are to be praised who explain the points which have been duly mentioned, as also those who add what has been left out; for it is not possible for the same man to make both a beginning and an end. Those, on the other hand, deserve censure who are so impatient that they will not wait to learn any of the things which have been duly mentioned, as do also those who are so ambitious that, in their lust after novel doctrines, they are always attempting some fraudulent sophistry, either purposely neglecting certain subjects, as Erasistratus does in the case of the

humours, or unscrupulously attacking other people, as does this same writer, as well as many of the more recent authorities.

But let this discussion come to an end here, and I shall add in the third book all that remains.

- 167 *cf.* p. [89](#).
- 168 This term is nowadays limited to the drawing action of a blister, *cf.* p. [223](#).
- 169 The radicles of the hepatic ducts in the liver were supposed to be the active agents in extracting bile from the blood. *cf.* pp. [145-149](#).
- 170 *Anadosis*; *cf.* p. 13, [note 5](#).
- 171 The term κοιλία is used both specifically for the stomach proper and also (as probably here) in a somewhat wider sense for the stomach *region*, including the adjacent part of the small intestine; this was the part of the alimentary canal from which nutriment was believed to be absorbed by the mesenteric veins; *cf.* p. 309, [note 2](#).
- 172 *cf.* p. 100, [note 2](#); p. 167, [note 2](#).
- 173 A characteristic "lesion" in Erasistratus's pathology.
- 174 A certain subordinate place allowed to the horror vacui.
- 175 *i.e.* the parts to which the veins convey blood after it leaves the liver—second stage of *anadosis*; *cf.* p. 91, [note 2](#); p. 13, [note 5](#).
- 176 What we now call the pulmonary artery. Galen believed that the right ventricle existed for the purpose of sending nutrient blood to the lungs.
- 177 Lit. owing to the ongrowth (*epiphysis*) of membranes; he means the tricuspid valve; *cf.* p. 314, [note 2](#); p. 321, [note 4](#).
- 178 Horror vacui.
- 179 But Erasistratus had never upheld this in the case of urinary secretion, *cf.* p. [99](#).
- 180 This was the characteristically "anatomical" explanation of bile-secretion made by Erasistratus. *cf.* p. 170, [note 2](#). Why, then, says Galen, does not urine, rather than bile, enter the bile-ducts?
- 181 Urine, or, more exactly, blood-serum.
- 182 Or ducts, canals, conduits, *i.e.* *morphological* factors.
- 183 Or artistic skill, "artistry." *cf.* Book I., chap. [xii](#).
- 184 "Only"; *cf.* *Introd.*, p. [xxviii](#).
- 185 Note how Galen, although he has not yet clearly differentiated physiological from physical processes (both are "natural") yet separates them definitely from the psychical. *cf.* p. 2, [footnote](#). A *psychical* function or activity is, in Latin, *actio animalis* (from *anima* = *psyche*).
- 186 The stage of organogenesis or *diaplasis*; *cf.* p. 25, [note 4](#).
- 187 The spermatozoon now becomes an "organism" proper.
- 188 Galen attributed to the sperma or semen what we should to the fertilized ovum: to him the maternal contribution is purely passive—mere food for the sperm. The epoch-making Ovum Theory was not developed till the seventeenth century. *cf.* p. 19, [note 3](#).
- 189 *i.e.* we should be talking psychology, not biology; *cf.* stomach, p. 307, [note 3](#).
- 190 Attraction now described not merely as *qualitative* but also as *quantitative*. *cf.* p. 85, [note 3](#).
- 191 He still tends either to biologize physics, or to physicize biology—whichever way we prefer to look at it. *cf.* Book I., chap. [xiv](#).
- 192 Aristotelian and Stoic duality of an active and a passive principle.
- 193 Note that early embryonic development is described as a process of *nutrition*. *cf.* p. 130, [note 2](#).
- 194 On the *alterative* and *shaping* faculties *cf.* p. 18, [note 1](#).
- 195 [pp. 27-29](#).
- 196 *cf.* *Introduction*, p. [xxvi](#).
- 197 *cf.* p. [15](#).
- 198 For definitions of *alteration* and *mingling* (*crasis*, "temperament") *cf.* Book I., chaps. [ii](#) and [iii](#).
- 199 *i.e.* are associated with oxidation? *cf.* p. 41, [note 3](#).
- 200 "Useless" organs; *cf.* p. 56, [note 2](#). For fallacy of Erasistratus's view on the spleen *v.* p. [205](#).
- 201 The Stoics.
- 202 The Peripatetics (Aristotelians).

- 203 Aristotle regarded the *qualitative* differences apprehended by our senses (the cold, the warm, the moist, and the dry) as fundamental, while the Stoics held the four corporeal elements (earth, air, fire, and water) to be still more fundamental. *cf.* p. 8, [note 3](#).
- 204 Lit. bile-receiving (cholechochous).
- 205 *Jecoris portae*, the transverse fissure, by which the portal vein enters the liver.
- 206 Lit. “anastomosing.”
- 207 More literally, “synapse.”
- 208 The portal vein.
- 209 The hepatic vein or veins.
- 210 The portal vein.
- 211 *cf.* p. 120, [note 1](#).
- 212 *cf.* p. 272, [note 1](#).
- 213 *i.e.* one might assume an *attraction*.
- 214 *i.e.* visible to the mind’s eye as distinguished from the bodily eye. *cf.* p. 21, [note 4](#). *Theoretion* without qualification means merely *visible*, not *theoretic*. *cf.* p. 205, [note 1](#).
- 215 According to the Pneumatist school, certain of whose ideas were accepted by Erasistratus, the air, breath, pneuma, or spirit was brought by inspiration into the left side of the heart, where it was converted into natural, vital, and psychic pneuma; the latter then went to the brain, whence it was distributed through the nervous system; practically this teaching involved the idea of a *psyche*, or conscious vital principle. “Psychic pneuma” is in Latin *spiritus animalis* (*anima* = *psyche*); *cf.* p. 126, [note 4](#). Introduction, p. [xxxiv](#).
- 216 Observe that Erasistratus’s “simple nerve” may be almost looked on as an anticipation of the *cell*. The question Galen now asks is whether this vessel is a “unit mass of living matter,” or merely an agglomeration of *atoms* subject to mechanical law. *cf.* Galen’s “fibres,” p. [329](#).
- 217 *cf.* Book I., chap. [xii](#).
- 218 *i.e.* in biology we must begin with living substance—with something which is specifically alive—here with the “unit mass of living matter.” *cf.* p. 73, [note 3](#).
- 219 “Ad elementa quae nec coalescere possunt nec in partes dividi” (Linacre). On the two contrasted schools *cf.* p. [45](#).
- 220 *cf. loc. cit.*
- 221 “Auxetic.” *cf.* p. 26, [note 1](#).
- 222 “At corporum quae nec una committi nec dividi possunt nullum in se formatricem, auctricem, nutricem, aut in summa artificem facultatem habet; quippe quod impatibile esse immutabileque praesumitur” (Linacre).
- 223 Book I., chaps. [v](#)-[xi](#).
- 224 *cf.* p. [153](#).
- 225 On account of his idea of a simple tissue not susceptible of further analysis.
- 226 Or “cell”; *cf.* p. 153, [note 2](#).
- 227 The *horror vacui*.
- 228 *Prosthesis* of nutriment; *cf.* p. 39, [note 6](#).
- 229 *Anadosis*, “absorption”; *cf.* p. 13, [note 5](#).
- 230 Lit. *diadosis*.
- 231 *i.e.* let him explain the *diadosis*.
- 232 “Spiritus animalis”; *cf.* p. 152, [note 1](#). The nutriment was for the *walls* of the vessels, not for their cavities. *cf.* p. 319, [note 3](#).
- 233 Specific attraction; *cf.* Book I., chap. [xiv](#).
- 234 *cf.* p. 100, [note 2](#).
- 235 In Book II., chap. [i](#).
- 236 Prevention better than cure.
- 237 *e.g.* Anaxagoras; *cf.* p. 7, [note 5](#); p. 20, [note 3](#).
- 238 Lit. *haematosi*s.
- 239 *cf.* p. 174, [note 4](#).
- 240 Erasistratus held the spleen to be useless, *cf.* p. [143](#).
- 241 Induration: Gk. *skirros*, Lat. *scirrhus*. The condition is now commonly known by Laënnec’s term *cirrhosis*, from Gk. *kirros*, meaning yellow or tawny. Here again we have an example of Erasistratus’s bias towards anatomical or structural rather than functional explanations of disease, *cf.* p. 124, [note 1](#).

- 242 On the risks which were supposed to attend the checking of habitual bleeding from piles *cf.* Celsus (*De Re Med.* VI. xviii. 9), "Atque in quibusdam parum tuto supprimitur, qui sanguinis profluvio imbecilliores non fiunt; habent enim purgationem hanc, non morbum." (*i.e.* the habit was to be looked on as a periodical cleansing, not as a disease.)
- 243 Lit. *catharsis*.
- 244 Apparently some form of anaemia.
- 245 Philistion of Locri, a contemporary of Plato, was one of the chief representatives of the Sicilian school of medicine. For Diocles and Praxagoras see p. 51, [note 1](#).
- 246 *cf.* Book I., chap. [iii](#).
- 247 Gk. *pepsis*; otherwise rendered *coction*.
- 248 *cf.* p. 13, [note 5](#).
- 249 *e.g.* Asclepiades.
- 250 Lit. *chylosis*; *cf.* p. 238, [note 2](#).
- 251 That is to say, the haematopoietic function deserves consideration as much as the digestive processes which precede it.
- 252 *i.e.* Erasistratus could obviously say nothing about any of the humours or their origins, since he had not postulated the four qualities (particularly the Warm—that is, innate heat).
- 253 *i.e.* bile.
- 254 *i.e.* deprived of its bile.
- 255 Here it is rather the living organism we consider than the particular food that is put into it.
- 256 Supreme importance of the "soil." *cf.* Introduction, [pp. xii.](#) and [xxxi](#).
- 257 Aristotle, *Hist. Animal.*, iii. xix.; Plato, *Timaeus*, 80 E.
- 258 Philotimus succeeded Diocles and Praxagoras, who were successive leaders of the Hippocratic school. *cf.* p. 51, [note 1](#).
- 259 Lit. *phenomena*.
- 260 *i.e.* living organisms; *cf.* p. 47, [note 1](#).
- 261 Erasistratus rejected the idea of innate heat; he held that the heat of the body was introduced from outside.
- 262 As a *bubo* is a swelling in the groin, we must suppose that the wound referred to would be in the leg or lower abdomen.
- 263 *i.e.* fever as a *cause* of disease.
- 264 As we should say, "circulatory" changes.
- 265 This is the "vital spirit" or pneuma which, according to Erasistratus and the Pneumatist school, was elaborated in the left ventricle, and thereafter carried by the arteries all over the body, there to subserve circulatory processes. It has some analogy with oxygen, but this is also the case with the "natural spirit" or pneuma, whose seat was the liver and which was distributed by the *veins* through the body; it presided over the more *vegetative* processes. *cf.* p. 152, [note 1](#); Introduction, p. [xxxiv](#).
- 266 Even leaving the pneuma out of account, Galen claims that he can still prove his thesis.
- 267 In other words: if *dyscrasia* is a first principle in *pathology*, then *eucrasia* must be a first principle in *physiology*.
- 268 The above is a good instance of Galen's "logical" method as applied to medical questions; an appeal to those who are capable of following "logical sequence." *cf.* p. 209, [note 1](#).
- 269 The aim of dietetics always being the production of moderate heat—*i.e.* blood.
- 270 Note contrasted methods of Rationalists and Empiricists.
- 271 Lit. *anaesthesia*. Linacre renders it *indocilitas*.
- 272 p. 15.
- 273 *Iatros*: lit. "healer."
- 274 Lit. "physicist" or "physiologist," the student of the *physis*. *cf.* p. 70, [note 2](#).
- 275 That is, a *blending* of the four principles in their natural proportion; Lat. *temperies*. Dyscrasia = *intemperies*, "distemper."
- 276 This is the orthodox Hippocratic treatment, that of *opposites by opposites*. Contrast the *homoeopathic* principle which is the basis of our modern methods of *immunisation* (*similia similibus curentur*, Hahnemann).
- 277 Lit. *aseptic*.
- 278 Prodicus of Ceos, a Sophist, contemporary of Socrates.
Plato, *Timaeus*, 83-86, *passim*.

- 280 *cf.* the term *blennorrhoea*, which is still used.
- 281 *cf.* the Scotch term “colded” for “affected with a cold”; Germ. *erkältet*.
- 282 The word *theôria* used here is not the same as our *theory*. It is rather a “contemplation,” the process by which a theory is arrived at. *cf.* p. 226, [note 2](#).
- 283 Erasistratus on the uselessness of the spleen. *cf.* [p. 143](#).
- 284 The Empirical school, *cf.* p. [193](#).
- 285 Enlargement and suppuration (?) of spleen associated with toxaemia or “cacochymy.”
- 286 Lit. “melancholic.”
- 287 *i.e.* the combination of sensible qualities which we call black bile. *cf.* p. 8, [note 3](#).
- 288 Thus Galen has demonstrated the functions of the spleen both deductively and inductively. For another example of the combined method *cf.* Book III., chaps. i. and ii.; *cf.* also Introd. [p. xxxi](#).
- 289 *i.e.* its innate heat.
- 290 Lit. *lecithoid*.
- 291 Note that there can be “normal” black bile.
- 292 The term *food* here means the food as introduced into the stomach; the term *nutriment* (*trophê*) means the same food in the digested condition, as it is conveyed to the tissues. *cf.* pp. 41-43. Note idea of imperfectly oxidized material being absorbed by the spleen. *cf.* p. 214, [note 1](#).
- 293 Lit. *choledochous*, bile-receiving.
- 294 Thus *over-roasting*—shall we say excessive *oxidation*?—produces the abnormal forms of both black and yellow bile.
- 295 *cf.* p. 277, [note 2](#).
- 296 *Timaeus*, 82 C-D.
- 297 *cf.* p. 90, [note 1](#). The term “catarrh” refers to this “running down,” which was supposed to take place through the pores of the cribriform plate of the ethmoid into the nose.
- 298 Now lost.

BOOK III

Pg 223
[Greek text](#)

I

It has been made clear in the preceding discussion that nutrition occurs by an *alteration* or *assimilation* of that which nourishes to that which receives nourishment,²⁹⁹ and that there exists in every part of the animal a faculty which in view of its activity we call, in general terms, *alterative*, or, more specifically, *assimilative* and *nutritive*. It was also shown that a sufficient supply of the matter which the part being nourished makes into nutriment for itself is ensured by virtue of another faculty which naturally attracts its *proper juice* [humour] that that juice is proper to each part which is adapted for assimilation, and that the faculty which attracts the juice is called, by reason of its activity, *attractive* or *epispastic*.³⁰⁰ It has also been shown that assimilation is preceded by *adhesion*, and this, again, by *presentation*,³⁰¹ the latter stage being, as one might say, the end or goal of the activity corresponding to the attractive faculty. For the actual bringing up of nutriment from the veins into each of the parts takes place through the activation of the attractive faculty,³⁰² whilst to have been finally brought up and presented to the part is the actual end for which we desired such an activity; it is attracted in order that it may be presented. After this, considerable time is needed for the nutrition of the animal; whilst a thing may be even rapidly attracted, on the other hand to become adherent, altered, and entirely assimilated to the part which is being nourished and to become a part of it, cannot take place suddenly, but requires a considerable amount of time. But if the nutritive juice, so presented, does not remain in the part, but withdraws to another one, and keeps flowing away, and constantly changing and shifting its position, neither adhesion nor complete assimilation will take place in any of them. Here too, then, the [animal's] nature has need of some other faculty for ensuring a prolonged stay of the presented juice at the part, and this not a faculty which comes in from somewhere outside but one which is resident in the part which is to be nourished. This faculty, again, in view of its activity our predecessors were obliged to call *retentive*.

Pg 225
[Greek text](#)

Thus our argument has clearly shown³⁰³ the necessity for the genesis of such a faculty, and whoever has an appreciation of logical sequence must be firmly persuaded from what we have said that, if it be laid down and proved by previous demonstration that Nature is artistic and solicitous for the animal's welfare, it

necessarily follows that she must also possess a faculty of this kind.

Pg 227
[Greek text](#)

II

SINCE, however, it is not our habit to employ this kind of demonstration³⁰⁴ alone, but to add thereto cogent and compelling proofs drawn from obvious facts, we will also proceed to the latter kind in the present instance: we will demonstrate that in certain parts of the body *the retentive faculty* is so obvious that its operation can be actually recognised by the *senses*, whilst in other parts it is less obvious to the senses, but is capable even here of being detected by the *argument*.³⁰⁵

Let us begin our exposition, then, by first dealing systematically for a while with certain definite parts of the body, in reference to which we may accurately test and enquire what sort of thing the retentive faculty is.

Now, could one begin the enquiry in any better way than with the largest and hollowest organs? Personally I do not think one could. It is to be expected that in these, owing to their size, the activities will show quite clearly, whereas with respect to the small organs, even if they possess a strong faculty of this kind, its activation will not at once be recognisable to sense.

Now those parts of the animal which are especially hollow and large are the stomach and the organ which is called the womb or uterus.³⁰⁶ What prevents us, then, from taking up these first and considering their activities, conducting the enquiry on our own persons in regard to those activities which are obvious without dissection, and, in the case of those which are more obscure, dissecting animals which are near to man;³⁰⁷ not that even animals unlike him will not show, in a general way, the faculty in question, but because in this manner we may find out at once what is common to all and what is peculiar to ourselves, and so may become more resourceful in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Pg 229
[Greek text](#)

Now it is impossible to speak of both organs at once, so we shall deal with each in turn, beginning with the one which is capable of demonstrating the retentive faculty most plainly. For the stomach retains the food until it has quite digested it, and the uterus retains the embryo until it brings it to completion, but the time taken for the completion of the embryo is many times more than that for the digestion of food.

III

We may expect, then, to detect the retentive faculty in the uterus more clearly in proportion to the longer duration of its activity as compared with that of the stomach. For, as we know, it takes nine months in most women for the foetus to attain maturity in the womb, this organ having its neck quite closed, and entirely surrounding the embryo together with the *chorion*. Further, it is the utility of the function which determines the closure of the os and the stay of the foetus in the uterus. For it is not casually nor without reason that Nature has made the uterus capable of contracting upon, and of retaining the embryo, but in order that the latter may arrive at a proper size. When, therefore, the object for which the uterus brought its retentive faculty into play has been fulfilled, it then stops this faculty and brings it back to a state of rest, and employs instead of it another faculty hitherto quiescent—the *propulsive* faculty. In this case again the quiescent and active states are both determined by utility; when this calls, there is activity; when it does not, there is rest.

Pg 231
[Greek text](#)

Here, then, once more, we must observe well the Art [artistic tendency] of Nature—how she has not merely placed in each organ the capabilities of useful activities, but has also fore-ordained the times both of rest and movement. For when everything connected with the pregnancy proceeds properly, the *eliminative* faculty remains quiescent as though it did not exist, but if anything goes wrong in connection either with the chorion or any of the other membranes or with the foetus itself, and its completion is entirely despaired of, then the uterus no longer awaits the nine-months period, but the retentive faculty forthwith ceases and allows the heretofore inoperative faculty to come into action. Now it is that something is done—in fact, useful work effected—by the *eliminative or propulsive faculty* (for so it, too, has been called, receiving, like the rest, its names from the corresponding activities).

Further, our theory can, I think, demonstrate both together; for seeing that they succeed each other, and that the one keeps giving place to the other according as utility demands, it seems not unreasonable to accept a common demonstration also for both. Thus it is the work of the retentive faculty to make the uterus contract upon the foetus at every point, so that, naturally enough, when the midwives palpate it, the os is found to be closed, whilst the pregnant women themselves, during the first days—and particularly on that on which conception takes place—experience a sensation as if the uterus were moving and contracting upon itself. Now, if both of these things occur—if the os closes apart from inflammation or any other disease, and if this is accompanied by a feeling of movement in the uterus—then the women believe that they have received the semen which comes from the male, and that they are

Pg 233
[Greek text](#)

retaining it.

Now we are not inventing this for ourselves: one may say the statement is based on prolonged experience of those who occupy themselves with such matters. Thus Herophilus³⁰⁸ does not hesitate to state in his writings that up to the time of labour the os uteri will not admit so much as the tip of a probe, that it no longer opens to the slightest degree if pregnancy has begun—that, in fact, it dilates more widely at the times of the menstrual flow. With him are in agreement all the others who have applied themselves to this subject; and particularly Hippocrates, who was the first of all physicians and philosophers to declare that the os uteri closes during pregnancy and inflammation, albeit in pregnancy it does not depart from its own nature, whilst in inflammation it becomes hard.

In the case of the opposite (the eliminative) faculty, the os opens, whilst the whole fundus approaches as near as possible to the os, expelling the embryo as it does so; and along with the fundus the contiguous parts—which form as it were a girdle round the whole organ—co-operate in the work; they squeeze upon the embryo and propel it bodily outwards. And, in many women who exercise such a faculty immoderately, violent pains cause forcible prolapse of the whole womb; here almost the same thing happens as frequently occurs in wrestling-bouts and struggles, when in our eagerness to overturn and throw others we are ourselves upset along with them; for similarly when the uterus is forcing the embryo forward it sometimes becomes entirely prolapsed, and particularly when the ligaments connecting it with the spine happen to be naturally lax.³⁰⁹

A wonderful device of Nature's also is this—that, when the foetus is alive, the os uteri is closed with perfect accuracy, but if it dies, the os at once opens up to the extent which is necessary for the foetus to make its exit. The midwife, however, does not make the parturient woman get up at once and sit down on the [obstetric] chair, but she begins by palpating the os as it gradually dilates, and the first thing she says is that it has dilated "enough to admit the little finger," then that "it is bigger now," and as we make enquiries from time to time, she answers that the size of the dilatation is increasing. And when it is sufficient to allow of the transit of the foetus,³¹⁰ she then makes the patient get up from her bed and sit on the chair, and bids her make every effort to expel the child. Now, this additional work which the patient does of herself is no longer the work of the uterus but of the epigastric muscles, which also help us in defaecation and micturition.

IV

Thus the two faculties are clearly to be seen in the case of the uterus; in the case of the *stomach* they appear as follows:—Firstly in the condition of *gurgling*, which physicians are persuaded, and with reason, to be a symptom of weakness of the stomach; for sometimes when the very smallest quantity of food has been ingested this does not occur, owing to the fact that the stomach is contracting accurately upon the food and constricting it at every point; sometimes when the stomach is full the gurglings yet make themselves heard as though it were empty. For if it be in a natural condition, employing its contractile faculty in the ordinary way, then, even if its contents be very small, it grasps the whole of them and does not leave any empty space. When it is weak, however, being unable to lay hold of its contents accurately, it produces a certain amount of vacant space, and allows the liquid contents to flow about in different directions in accordance with its changes of shape, and so to produce gurglings.

Thus those who are troubled with this symptom expect, with good reason, that they will also be unable to digest adequately; proper digestion cannot take place in a weak stomach. In such people also, the mass of food may be plainly seen to remain an abnormally long time in the stomach, as would be natural if their digestion were slow. Indeed, the chief way in which these people will surprise one is in the length of time that not food alone but even fluids will remain in their stomachs. Now, the actual cause of this is not, as one would imagine, that the lower outlet of the stomach,³¹¹ being fairly narrow, will allow nothing to pass before being reduced to a fine state of division. There are a great many people who frequently swallow large quantities of big fruit-stones; one person, who was holding a gold ring in his mouth, inadvertently swallowed it; another swallowed a coin, and various people have swallowed various hard and indigestible objects; yet all these people easily passed by the bowel what they had swallowed, without there being any subsequent symptoms. Now surely if narrowness of the gastric outlet were the cause of untritured food remaining for an abnormally long time, none of these articles I have mentioned would ever have escaped. Furthermore, the fact that it is liquids which remain longest in these people's stomachs is sufficient to put the idea of narrowness of the outlet out of court. For, supposing a rapid descent were dependent upon emulsification,³¹² then soups, milk, and barley-emulsion³¹³ would at once pass along in every case. But as a matter of fact this is not so. For in people who are extremely asthenic it is just these fluids which remain undigested, which accumulate and produce gurglings, and which oppress and overload the stomach, whereas in strong

Pg 235
[Greek text](#)

Pg 237
[Greek text](#)

Pg 239
[Greek text](#)

persons not merely do none of these things happen, but even a large quantity of bread or meat passes rapidly down.

And it is not only because the stomach is distended and loaded and because the fluid runs from one part of it to another accompanied by gurglings—it is not only for these reasons that one would judge that there was an unduly long continuance of the food in it, in those people who are so disposed, but also from the *vomiting*. Thus, there are some who vomit up every particle of what they have eaten, not after three or four hours, but actually in the middle of the night, a lengthy period having elapsed since their meal.

Pg 241
[Greek text](#)

Suppose you fill any animal whatsoever with liquid food—an experiment I have often carried out in pigs, to whom I give a sort of mess of wheaten flour and water, thereafter cutting them open after three or four hours; if you will do this yourself, you will find the food still in the stomach. For it is not *chylification*³¹⁴ which determines the length of its stay here—since this can also be effected outside the stomach; the determining factor is *digestion*³¹⁵ which is a different thing from chylification, as are blood-production and nutrition. For, just as it has been shown³¹⁶ that these two processes depend upon a *change of qualities*, similarly also the digestion of food in the stomach involves a transmutation of it into the quality proper to that which is receiving nourishment.³¹⁷ Then, when it is completely digested, the lower outlet opens and the food is quickly ejected through it, even if there should be amongst it abundance of stones, bones, grape-pips, or other things which cannot be reduced to chyle. And you may observe this yourself in an animal, if you will try to hit upon the time at which the descent of food from the stomach takes place. But even if you should fail to discover the time, and nothing was yet passing down, and the food was still undergoing digestion in the stomach, still even then you would find dissection not without its uses. You will observe, as we have just said, that the pylorus is accurately closed, and that the whole stomach is in a state of contraction upon the food very much as the womb contacts upon the foetus. For it is never possible to find a vacant space in the uterus, the stomach, or in either of the two bladders—that is, either in that called bile-receiving³¹⁸ or in the other; whether their contents be abundant or scanty, their cavities are seen to be replete and full, owing to the fact that their coats contract constantly upon the contents—so long, at least, as the animal is in a natural condition.

Pg 243
[Greek text](#)

Now Erasistratus for some reason declares that it is the contractions³¹⁹ of the stomach which are the cause of everything—that is to say, of the softening of the food,³²⁰ the removal of waste matter, and the absorption of the food when chylified [emulsified].

Now I have personally, on countless occasions, divided the peritoneum of a still living animal and have always found all *the intestines* contracting peristaltically³²¹ upon their contents. The condition of *the stomach*, however, is found less simple; as regards the substances freshly swallowed, it had grasped these accurately both above and below, in fact at every point, and was as devoid of movement as though it had grown round and become united with the food.³²² At the same time I found the pylorus persistently closed and accurately shut, like the os uteri on the foetus.

Pg 245
[Greek text](#)

In the cases, however, where digestion had been completed the pylorus had opened, and the stomach was undergoing peristaltic movements, similar to those of the intestines.

V

Thus all these facts agree that the stomach, uterus, and bladders possess certain inborn faculties which are retentive of their own proper qualities and eliminative of those that are foreign. For it has been already shown³²³ that the bladder by the liver draws bile into itself, while it is also quite obvious that it eliminates this daily into the stomach. Now, of course, if the eliminative were to succeed the attractive faculty and there were not a *retentive* faculty between the two, there would be found, on every occasion that animals were dissected, an equal quantity of bile in the gall-bladder. This however, we do not find. For the bladder is sometimes observed to be very full, sometimes quite empty, while at other times you find in it various intermediate degrees of fulness, just as is the case with the other bladder—that which receives the urine; for even without resorting to anatomy we may observe that the urinary bladder continues to collect urine up to the time that it becomes uncomfortable through the increasing quantity of urine or the irritation caused by its acidity—the presumption thus being that here, too, there is a retentive faculty.

Pg 247
[Greek text](#)

Similarly, too, the stomach, when, as often happens, it is irritated by acidity, gets rid of the food, although still undigested, earlier than proper; or again, when oppressed by the quantity of its contents, or disordered from the co-existence of both conditions, it is seized with *diarrhoea*. *Vomiting* also is an affection of the upper [part of the] stomach analogous to diarrhoea, and it occurs when the stomach is overloaded or is unable to stand the quality of the food or surplus substances which

it contains. Thus, when such a condition develops in the lower parts of the stomach, while the parts about the inlet are normal, it ends in diarrhoea, whereas if this condition is in the upper stomach, the lower parts being normal, it ends in vomiting.

VI

This may often be clearly observed in those who are disinclined for food; when obliged to eat, they have not the strength to swallow, and, even if they force themselves to do so, they cannot retain the food, but at once vomit it up. And those especially who have a dislike to some particular kind of food, sometimes take it under compulsion, and then promptly bring it up; or, if they force themselves to keep it down, they are nauseated and feel their stomach turned up, and endeavouring to relieve itself of its discomfort.

Thus, as was said at the beginning, all the observed facts testify that there must exist in almost all parts of the animal a certain inclination towards, or, so to speak; an appetite for their own special quality, and an aversion to, or, as it were, a hatred³²⁴ of the foreign quality. And it is natural that when they feel an inclination they should attract, and that when they feel aversion they should expel.

Pg 249
[Greek text](#)

From these facts, then, again, both the attractive and the propulsive faculties have been demonstrated to exist in everything.³²⁵

But if there be an inclination or attraction, there will also be some benefit derived; for no existing thing attracts anything else for the mere sake of attracting, but in order to benefit by what is acquired by the attraction. And of course it cannot benefit by it if it cannot retain it. Herein, then, again, the retentive faculty is shown to have its necessary origin: for the stomach obviously inclines towards its own proper qualities and turns away from those that are foreign to it.³²⁶

But if it aims at and attracts its food and benefits by it while retaining and contracting upon it, we may also expect that there will be some *termination* to the benefit received, and that thereafter will come the time for the exercise of the eliminative faculty.

VII

But if the stomach both retains and benefits by its food, then it employs it for the end for which it [the stomach] naturally exists. And it exists to partake of that which is of a quality befitting and proper to it. Thus it attracts all the most useful parts of the food in a vaporous³²⁷ and finely divided condition, storing this up in its own coats, and applying³²⁸ it to them. And when it is sufficiently full it puts away from it, as one might something troublesome, the rest of the food, this having itself meanwhile obtained some profit from its association with the stomach. For it is impossible for two bodies which are adapted for acting and being acted upon to come together without either both acting or being acted upon, or else one acting and the other being acted upon. For if their forces are equal they will act and be acted upon equally, and if the one be much superior in strength, it will exert its activity upon its passive neighbour; thus, while producing a great and appreciable effect, it will itself be acted upon either little or not at all. But it is herein also that the main difference lies between nourishing food and a deleterious drug; the latter masters the forces of the body, whereas the former is mastered by them.³²⁹

Pg 251
[Greek text](#)

There cannot, then, be food which is suited for the animal which is not also correspondingly subdued by the qualities existing in the animal. And to be subdued means to undergo *alteration*.³³⁰ Now, some parts are stronger in power and others weaker; therefore, while all will subdue the nutriment which is proper to the animal, they will not all do so equally. Thus the stomach will subdue and alter its food, but not to the same extent as will the liver, veins, arteries, and heart.

We must therefore observe to what extent it does alter it. The alteration is more than that which occurs in the mouth, but less than that in the liver and veins. For the latter alteration changes the nutriment into the *substance* of blood, whereas that in the mouth obviously changes it into a new *form*, but certainly does not completely transmute it. This you may discover in the food which is left in the intervals between the teeth, and which remains there all night; the bread is not exactly bread, nor the meat, for they have a smell similar to that of the animal's mouth, and have been disintegrated and dissolved, and have had the qualities of the animal's flesh impressed upon them. And you may observe the extent of the alteration which occurs to food in the mouth if you will chew some corn and then apply it to an unripe [undigested] boil: you will see it rapidly transmuting—in fact entirely digesting—the boil, though it cannot do anything of the kind if you mix it with water. And do not let this surprise you; this phlegm [saliva] in the mouth is also a cure for *lichens*³³¹; it even rapidly destroys scorpions; while, as regards the animals which emit venom, some it kills at once, and others after an interval; to all of them in any case it does great damage. Now, the masticated food is all, firstly, soaked in and mixed up with

Pg 253
[Greek text](#)

this phlegm; and secondly, it is brought into contact with the actual skin of the mouth; thus it undergoes more change than the food which is wedged into the vacant spaces between the teeth.

But just as masticated food is more altered than the latter kind, so is food which has been swallowed more altered than that which has been merely masticated. Indeed, there is no comparison between these two processes; we have only to consider what the stomach contains—phlegm, bile, pneuma, [innate] heat,³³² and, indeed the whole substance of the stomach. And if one considers along with this the adjacent viscera, like a lot of burning hearths around a great cauldron—to the right the liver, to the left the spleen, the heart above, and along with it the diaphragm (suspended and in a state of constant movement), and the omentum sheltering them all—you may believe what an extraordinary alteration it is which occurs in the food taken into the stomach.

Pg 255
[Greek text](#)

How could it easily become blood if it were not previously prepared by means of a change of this kind? It has already been shown³³³ that nothing is altered all at once from one quality to its opposite. How then could bread, beef, beans, or any other food turn into blood if they had not previously undergone some other alteration? And how could the faeces be generated right away in the small intestine?³³⁴ For what is there in this organ more potent in producing alteration than the factors in the stomach? Is it the number of the coats, or the way it is surrounded by neighbouring viscera, or the time that the food remains in it, or some kind of innate heat which it contains? Most assuredly the intestines have the advantage of the stomach in none of these respects. For what possible reason, then, will objectors have it that bread may often remain a whole night in the stomach and still preserve its original qualities, whereas when once it is projected into the intestines, it straightway becomes ordure? For, if such a long period of time is incapable of altering it, neither will the short period be sufficient, or, if the latter is enough, surely the longer time will be much more so! Well, then, can it be that, while the nutriment does undergo an alteration in the stomach, this is a different kind of alteration and one which is not dependent on the nature of the organ which alters it? Or if it be an alteration of this latter kind, yet one perhaps which is not proper to the body of the animal? This is still more impossible. Digestion was shown to be nothing else than an alteration to the quality proper to that which is receiving nourishment.³³⁵ Since, then, this is what digestion means and since the nutriment has been shown to take on in the stomach a quality appropriate to the animal which is about to be nourished by it, it has been demonstrated adequately that nutriment does undergo digestion in the stomach.

Pg 257
[Greek text](#)

And Asclepiades is absurd when he states that the quality of the digested food never shows itself either in eructations or in the vomited matter, or on dissection.³³⁶ For of course the mere fact that the food smells of the body shows that it has undergone gastric digestion. But this man is so foolish that, when he hears the Ancients saying that the food is converted in the stomach into something “good,” he thinks it proper to look out not for what is good in its possible effects, but for what is *good to the taste*: this is like saying that apples (for so one has to argue with him) become more apple-like [in flavour] in the stomach, or honey more honey-like!

Erasistratus, however, is still more foolish and absurd, either through not perceiving in what sense the Ancients said that digestion is similar to the process of *boiling*, or because he purposely confused himself with sophistries. It is, he says, inconceivable that digestion, involving as it does such trifling warmth, should be related to the boiling process. This is as if we were to suppose that it was necessary to put the fires of Etna under the stomach before it could manage to alter the food; or else that, while it was capable of altering the food, it did not do this by virtue of its innate heat, which of course was moist, so that the word *boil* was used instead of *bake*.

Pg 259
[Greek text](#)

What he ought to have done, if it was facts that he wished to dispute about, was to have tried to show, first and foremost, that the food is not transmuted or altered in quality by the stomach at all, and secondly, if he could not be confident of this, he ought to have tried to show that this alteration was not of any advantage to the animal.³³⁷ If, again, he were unable even to make this misrepresentation, he ought to have attempted to confute the postulate concerning *the active principles*—to show, in fact, that the functions taking place in the various parts do not depend on the way in which the Warm, Cold, Dry, and Moist are mixed, but on some other factor. And if he had not the audacity to misrepresent facts even so far as this, still he should have tried at least to show that the Warm is not the most active of all the principles which play a part in things governed by Nature. But if he was unable to demonstrate this any more than any of the previous propositions, then he ought not to have made himself ridiculous by quarrelling uselessly with a mere name—as though Aristotle had not clearly stated in the fourth book of his “Meteorology,” as well as in many other passages, in what way digestion can be said to be allied to boiling, and also that the latter expression is not used in its primitive or strict sense.

Pg 261
[Greek text](#)

But, as has been frequently said already,³³⁸ the one starting-point of all this is a thoroughgoing enquiry into the question of the Warm, Cold, Dry and Moist; this Aristotle carried out in the second of his books “On Genesis and Destruction,” where

he shows that all the transmutations and alterations throughout the body take place as a result of these principles. Erasistratus, however, advanced nothing against these or anything else that has been said above, but occupied himself merely with the word "boiling."

VIII

Thus, as regards *digestion*, even though he neglected everything else, he did at least attempt to prove his point—namely, that digestion in animals differs from boiling carried on outside; in regard to the question of *deglutition*, however, he did not go even so far as this. What are his words?

"The stomach does not appear to exercise any traction."³³⁹

Now the fact is that the stomach possesses two coats, which certainly exist for some purpose; they extend as far as the mouth, the internal one remaining throughout similar to what it is in the stomach, and the other one tending to become of a more fleshy nature in the gullet. Now simple observation will testify that these coats have their fibres inserted in contrary directions.³⁴⁰ And, although Erasistratus did not attempt to say for what reason they are like this, I am going to do so.

Pg 263
[Greek text](#)

The inner coat has its fibres straight, since it exists for the purpose of traction. The outer coat has its fibres transverse, for the purpose of peristalsis.³⁴¹ In fact, the movements of each of the *mobile* organs of the body depend on the setting of the fibres. Now please test this assertion first in the muscles themselves; in these the fibres are most distinct, and their movements visible owing to their vigour. And after the muscles, pass to the *physical* organs,³⁴² and you will see that they all move in correspondence with their fibres. This is why the fibres throughout the intestines are circular in both coats—they only contract peristaltically, they do not exercise traction. The stomach, again, has some of its fibres longitudinal for the purpose of traction and the others transverse for the purpose of peristalsis.³⁴² For just as the movements in the muscles³⁴³ take place when each of the fibres becomes tightened and drawn towards its origin, such also is what happens in the stomach; when the transverse fibres tighten, the breadth of the cavity contained by them becomes less; and when the longitudinal fibres contract and draw in upon themselves, the length must necessarily be curtailed. This curtailment of length, indeed, is well seen in the act of swallowing: the larynx is seen to rise upwards to exactly the same degree that the gullet is drawn downwards; while, after the process of swallowing has been completed and the gullet is released from tension, the larynx can be clearly seen to sink down again. This is because the inner coat of the stomach, which has the longitudinal fibres and which also lines the gullet and the mouth, extends to the interior of the larynx, and it is thus impossible for it to be drawn down by the stomach without the larynx being involved in the traction.

Pg 265
[Greek text](#)

Further, it will be found acknowledged in Erasistratus's own writings that the circular fibres (by which the stomach as well as other parts performs its contractions) do not curtail its length, but contract and lessen its breadth. For he says that the stomach contracts peristaltically round the food during the whole period of digestion. But if it contracts, without in any way being diminished in length, this is because downward traction of the gullet is not a property of the movement of circular peristalsis. For what alone happens, as Erasistratus himself said, is that when the upper parts contract the lower ones dilate.³⁴⁴ And everyone knows that this can be plainly seen happening even in a dead man, if water be poured down his throat; this symptom³⁴⁵ results from the passage of matter through a narrow channel; it would be extraordinary if the channel did not dilate when a mass was passing through it.³⁴⁶ Obviously then the dilatation of the lower parts along with the contraction of the upper is common both to dead bodies, when anything whatsoever is passing through them, and to living ones, whether they contract peristaltically round their contents or attract them.³⁴⁷

Pg 267
[Greek text](#)

Curtailment of length, on the other hand, is peculiar to organs which possess longitudinal fibres for the purpose of attraction. But the gullet was shown to be pulled down; for otherwise it would not have drawn upon the larynx. It is therefore clear that the stomach attracts food by the gullet.

Further, in *vomiting*, the mere passive conveyance of rejected matter up to the mouth will certainly itself suffice to keep open those parts of the oesophagus which are distended by the returned food; as it occupies each part in front [above], it first dilates this, and of course leaves the part behind [below] contracted. Thus, in this respect at least, the condition of the gullet is precisely similar to what it is in the act of swallowing.³⁴⁸ But there being no *traction*, the whole length remains equal in such cases.

And for this reason it is easier to swallow than to vomit, for deglutition results from *both* coats of the stomach being brought into action, the inner one exerting a pull and the outer one helping by peristalsis and propulsion, whereas emesis occurs from the outer coat alone functioning, without there being any kind of pull towards the

Pg 269

mouth. For, although the swallowing of food is ordinarily preceded by a feeling of desire on the part of the stomach, there is in the case of vomiting no corresponding desire from the mouth-parts for the experience; the two are opposite dispositions of the stomach itself; it yearns after and tends towards what is advantageous and proper to it, it loathes and rids itself of what is foreign. Thus the actual process of swallowing occurs very quickly in those who have a good appetite for such foods as are proper to the stomach; this organ obviously draws them in and down before they are masticated; whereas in the case of those who are forced to take a medicinal draught or who take food as medicine, the swallowing of these articles is accomplished with distress and difficulty.

[Greek text](#)

From what has been said, then, it is clear that the inner coat of the stomach (that containing longitudinal fibres) exists for the purpose of exerting a pull from mouth to stomach, and that it is only in deglutition that it is active, whereas the external coat, which contains transverse fibres, has been so constituted in order that it may contract upon its contents and propel them forward; this coat furthermore, functions in vomiting no less than in swallowing. The truth of my statement is also borne out by what happens in the case of the *channae* and *synodonts*³⁴⁹; the stomachs of these animals are sometimes found in their mouths, as also Aristotle writes in his *History of Animals*; he also adds the cause of this: he says that it is owing to their voracity.

Pg 271
[Greek text](#)

The facts are as follows. In all animals, when the appetite is very intense, the stomach rises up, so that some people who have a clear perception of this condition say that their stomach "creeps out" of them; in others, who are still masticating their food and have not yet worked it up properly in the mouth, the stomach obviously snatches away the food from them against their will. In those animals, therefore, which are naturally voracious, in whom the mouth cavity is of generous proportions, and the stomach situated close to it (as in the case of the *synodont* and *channa*), it is in no way surprising that, when they are sufficiently hungry and are pursuing one of the smaller animals, and are just on the point of catching it, the stomach should, under the impulse of desire, spring into the mouth. And this cannot possibly take place in any other way than by the stomach drawing the food to itself by means of the gullet, as though by a hand. In fact, just as we ourselves, in our eagerness to grasp more quickly something lying before us, sometimes stretch out our whole bodies along with our hands, so also the stomach stretches itself forward along with the gullet, which is, as it were, its hand. And thus, in these animals in whom those three factors co-exist—an excessive propensity for food, a small gullet, and ample mouth proportions—in these, any slight tendency to movement forwards brings the whole stomach into the mouth.

Now the constitution of the organs might itself suffice to give a naturalist an indication of their functions. For Nature would never have purposelessly constructed the oesophagus of two coats with contrary dispositions; they must also have each been meant to have a different action. The Erasistratean school, however, are capable of anything rather than of recognizing the effects of Nature. Come, therefore, let us demonstrate to them by animal dissection as well that each of the two coats does exercise the activity which I have stated. Take an animal, then; lay bare the structures surrounding the gullet, without severing any of the nerves,³⁵⁰ arteries, or veins which are there situated; next divide with vertical incisions, from the lower jaw to the thorax, the outer coat of the oesophagus (that containing transverse fibres); then give the animal food and you will see that it still swallows although the peristaltic function has been abolished. If, again, in another animal, you cut through both coats³⁵¹ with transverse incisions, you will observe that this animal also swallows although the inner coat is no longer functioning. From this it is clear that the animal can also swallow by either of the two coats, although not so well as by both. For the following also, in addition to other points, may be distinctly observed in the dissection which I have described—that during deglutition the gullet becomes slightly filled with air which is swallowed along with the food, and that, when the outer coat is contracting, this air is easily forced with the food into the stomach, but that, when there only exists an inner coat, the air impedes the conveyance of food, by distending this coat and hindering its action.

Pg 273
[Greek text](#)

But Erasistratus said nothing about this, nor did he point out that the oblique situation of the gullet clearly confutes the teaching of those who hold that it is simply by virtue of the impulse from above that food which is swallowed reaches the stomach. The only correct thing he said was that many of the long-necked animals bend down to swallow. Hence, clearly, the observed fact does not show how we swallow but how we do not swallow. For from this observation it is clear that swallowing is not due merely to the impulse from above; it is yet, however, not clear whether it results from the food being attracted by the stomach, or conducted by the gullet. For our part, however, having enumerated all the different considerations—those based on the constitution of the organs, as well as those based on the other symptoms which, as just mentioned, occur both before and after the gullet has been exposed—we have thus sufficiently proved that the inner coat exists for the purpose of attraction and the outer for the purpose of propulsion.

Pg 275
[Greek text](#)

Now the original task we set before ourselves was to demonstrate that the *retentive* faculty exists in every one of the organs, just as in the previous book we proved the existence of the *attractive*, and, over and above this, the *alterative* faculty. Thus, in the natural course of our argument, we have demonstrated these four faculties existing in the stomach—the attractive faculty in connection with swallowing, the retentive with digestion, the expulsive with vomiting and with the descent of digested food into the small intestine—and digestion itself we have shown to be a process of *alteration*.

Pg 277
[Greek text](#)

IX

Concerning the spleen, also, we shall therefore have no further doubts³⁵² as to whether it attracts what is proper to it, rejects what is foreign, and has a natural power of altering and retaining all that it attracts; nor shall we be in any doubt as to the liver, veins, arteries, heart, or any other organ. For these four faculties have been shown to be necessary for every part which is to be nourished; this is why we have called these faculties the *handmaids of nutrition*. For just as human faeces are most pleasing to dogs, so the residual matters from the liver are, some of them, proper to the spleen,³⁵³ others to the gall-bladder, and others to the kidneys.

X

I should not have cared to say anything further as to the origin of these [surplus substances] after Hippocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Diocles, Praxagoras, and Philotimus, nor indeed should I even have said anything about the *faculties*, if any of our predecessors had worked out this subject thoroughly.

While, however, the statements which the Ancients made on these points were correct, they yet omitted to defend their arguments with logical proofs; of course they never suspected that there could be sophists so shameless as to try to contradict obvious facts. More recent physicians, again, have been partly conquered by the sophistries of these fellows and have given credence to them; whilst others who attempted to argue with them appear to me to lack to a great extent the power of the Ancients. For this reason I have attempted to put together my arguments in the way in which it seems to me the Ancients, had any of them been still alive, would have done, in opposition to those who would overturn the finest doctrines of our art.

Pg 279
[Greek text](#)

I am not, however, unaware that I shall achieve either nothing at all or else very little. For I find that a great many things which have been conclusively demonstrated by the Ancients are unintelligible to the bulk of the Moderns owing to their ignorance—nay, that, by reason of their laziness, they will not even make an attempt to comprehend them; and even if any of them have understood them, they have not given them impartial examination.

The fact is that he whose purpose is to know anything better than the multitude do must far surpass all others both as regards his nature and his early training. And when he reaches early adolescence he must become possessed with an ardent love for truth, like one inspired; neither day nor night may he cease to urge and strain himself in order to learn thoroughly all that has been said by the most illustrious of the Ancients. And when he has learnt this, then for a prolonged period he must test and prove it, observing what part of it is in agreement, and what in disagreement with obvious fact; thus he will choose this and turn away from that. To such an one my hope has been that my treatise would prove of the very greatest assistance.... Still, such people may be expected to be quite few in number, while, as for the others, this book will be as superfluous to them as a tale told to an ass.

Pg 281
[Greek text](#)

XI

For the sake, then, of those who are aiming at truth, we must complete this treatise by adding what is still wanting in it. Now, in people who are very hungry, the stomach obviously attracts or draws down the food before it has been thoroughly softened in the mouth, whilst in those who have no appetite or who are being forced to eat, the stomach is displeased and rejects the food.³⁵⁴ And in a similar way each of the other organs possesses both faculties—that of attracting what is proper to it, and that of rejecting what is foreign. Thus, even if there be any organ which consists of only one coat (such as the two bladders,³⁵⁵ the uterus, and the veins), it yet possesses both kinds of fibres, the longitudinal and the transverse.

But further, there are fibres of a third kind—the *oblique*—which are much fewer in number than the two kinds already spoken of. In the organs consisting of two coats this kind of fibre is found in the one coat only, mixed with the longitudinal fibres; but in the organs composed of one coat it is found along with the other two kinds. Now, these are of the greatest help to the action of the faculty which we have named *retentive*. For during this period the part needs to be tightly contracted and stretched over its contents at every point—the stomach during the whole period of

Pg 283

digestion,³⁵⁶ and the uterus during that of gestation.

[Greek text](#)

Thus too, the coat of a vein, being single, consists of various kinds of fibres; whilst the outer coat of an artery consists of circular fibres, and its inner coat mostly of longitudinal fibres, but with a few oblique ones also amongst them. Veins thus resemble the uterus or the bladder as regards the arrangement of their fibres, even though they are deficient in thickness; similarly arteries resemble the stomach. Alone of all organs the intestines consist of two coats of which both have their fibres transverse.³⁵⁷ Now the proof that it was *for the best* that all the organs should be naturally such as they are (that, for instance, the intestines should be composed of two coats) belongs to the subject of the *use of parts*³⁵⁸; thus we must not now desire to hear about matters of this kind nor why the anatomists are at variance regarding the number of coats in each organ. For these questions have been sufficiently discussed in the treatise "On Disagreement in Anatomy." And the problem as to why each organ has such and such a character will be discussed in the treatise "On the Use of Parts."

XII

It is not, however, our business to discuss either of these questions here, but to consider duly the *natural faculties*, which, to the number of four, exist in each organ. Returning then, to this point, let us recall what has already been said, and set a crown to the whole subject by adding what is still wanting. For when every part of the animal has been shewn to draw into itself the juice which is proper to it (this being practically *the first of the natural faculties*), the next point to realise is that the part does not get rid either of this attracted nutriment as a whole, or even of any superfluous portion of it, until either the organ itself, or the major part of its contents also have their condition reversed. Thus, when the stomach is sufficiently filled with the food and has absorbed and stored away the most useful part of it in its own coats, it then rejects the rest like an alien burden. The same happens to the bladders, when the matter attracted into them begins to give trouble either because it distends them through its quantity or irritates them by its quality.

Pg 285

[Greek text](#)

And this also happens in the case of the uterus; for it is either because it can no longer bear to be stretched that it strives to relieve itself of its annoyance, or else because it is irritated by the quality of the fluids poured out into it. Now both of these conditions sometimes occur with actual violence, and then *miscarriage* takes place. But for the most part they happen in a normal way, this being then called not miscarriage but *delivery* or *parturition*. Now abortifacient drugs or certain other conditions which destroy the embryo or rupture certain of its membranes are followed by abortion, and similarly also when the uterus is in pain from being in a bad state of tension; and, as has been well said by Hippocrates, excessive movement on the part of the embryo itself brings on labour. Now *pain* is common to all these conditions, and of this there are three possible causes—either excessive bulk, or weight, or irritation; bulk when the uterus can no longer support the stretching, weight when the contents surpass its strength, and irritation when the fluids which had previously been pent up in the membranes, flow out, on the rupture of these, into the uterus itself, or else when the whole foetus perishes, putrefies, and is resolved into pernicious ichors, and so irritates and bites the coat of the uterus.

Pg 287

[Greek text](#)

In all organs, then, both their natural effects and their disorders and maladies plainly take place on analogous lines,³⁵⁹ some so clearly and manifestly as to need no demonstration, and others less plainly, although not entirely unrecognizable to those who are willing to pay attention.

Thus, to take the case of the stomach: the irritation is evident here because this organ possesses most sensibility, and among its other affections those producing nausea and the so-called heartburn clearly demonstrate the eliminative faculty which expels foreign matter. So also in the case of the uterus and the urinary bladder; this latter also may be plainly observed to receive and accumulate fluid until it is so stretched by the amount of this as to be incapable of enduring the pain; or it may be the quality of the urine which irritates it; for every superfluous substance which lingers in the body must obviously putrefy, some in a shorter, and some in a longer time, and thus it becomes pungent, acrid, and burdensome to the organ which contains it. This does not apply, however, in the case of the bladder alongside the liver, whence it is clear that it possesses fewer nerves than do the other organs. Here too, however, at least the physiologist³⁶⁰ must discover an analogy. For since it was shown that the gall-bladder attracts its own special juice, so as to be often found full, and that it discharges it soon after, this desire to discharge must be either due to the fact that it is burdened by the quantity or that the bile has changed in quality to pungent and acrid. For while food does not change its original quality so fast that it is already ordure as soon as it falls into the small intestine, on the other hand the bile even more readily than the urine becomes altered in quality as soon as ever it leaves the veins, and rapidly undergoes change and putrefaction. Now, if there be clear evidence in relation to the uterus, stomach, and intestines, as well as to the urinary

Pg 289

[Greek text](#)

bladder, that there is either some distention, irritation, or burden inciting each of these organs to elimination, there is no difficulty in imagining this in the case of the gall-bladder also, as well as in the other organs,—to which obviously the arteries and veins also belong.

XIII

Nor is there any further difficulty in ascertaining that it is through the same channel that both attraction and discharge take place at different times. For obviously the inlet to the stomach does not merely conduct food and drink into this organ, but in the condition of nausea it performs the opposite service. Further, the neck of the bladder which is beside the liver, albeit single, both fills and empties the bladder. Similarly the canal of the uterus affords an entrance to the semen and an exit to the foetus.

Pg 291
[Greek text](#)

But in this latter case, again, whilst the eliminative faculty is evident, the attractive faculty is not so obvious to most people. It is, however, the cervix which Hippocrates blames for inertia of the uterus when he says:—"Its orifice has no power of attracting semen."³⁶¹

Erasistratus, however, and Asclepiades reached such heights of wisdom that they deprived not merely the stomach and the womb of this faculty but also the bladder by the liver, and the kidneys as well. I have, however, pointed out in the first book that it is impossible to assign any other cause for the secretion of urine or bile.³⁶²

Now, when we find that the uterus, the stomach and the bladder by the liver carry out attraction and expulsion through one and the same duct, we need no longer feel surprised that Nature should also frequently discharge waste-substances into the stomach through the veins. Still less need we be astonished if a certain amount of the food should, during long fasts, be drawn back from the liver into the stomach through the same veins³⁶³ by which it was yielded up to the liver during absorption of nutriment.³⁶⁴ To disbelieve such things would of course be like refusing to believe that purgative drugs draw their appropriate humours from all over the body by the same stomata through which absorption previously takes place, and to look for separate stomata for absorption and purgation respectively. As a matter of fact one and the same stoma subserves two distinct faculties, and these exercise their pull at different times in opposite directions—first it subserves the pull of the liver and, during catharsis, that of the drug. What is there surprising, then, in the fact that the veins situated between the liver and the region of the stomach³⁶⁵ fulfil a double service or purpose? Thus, when there is abundance of nutriment contained in the food-canal, it is carried up to the liver by the veins mentioned; and when the canal is empty and in need of nutriment, this is again attracted from the liver by the same veins.

Pg 293
[Greek text](#)

For everything appears to attract from and to go shares with everything else, and, as the most divine Hippocrates has said, there would seem to be a consensus in the movements of fluids and vapours.³⁶⁶ Thus the stronger draws and the weaker is evacuated.

Now, one part is weaker or stronger than another either absolutely, by nature, and in all cases, or else it becomes so in such and such a particular instance. Thus, by nature and in all men alike, the heart is stronger than the liver at attracting what is serviceable to it and rejecting what is not so; similarly the liver is stronger than the intestines and stomach, and the arteries than the veins. In each of us personally, however, the liver has stronger drawing power at one time, and the stomach at another. For when there is much nutriment contained in the alimentary canal and the appetite and craving of the liver is violent, then the viscus³⁶⁷ exerts far the strongest traction. Again, when the liver is full and distended and the stomach empty and in need, then the force of the traction shifts to the latter.

Pg 295
[Greek text](#)

Suppose we had some food in our hands and were snatching it from one another; if we were equally in want, the stronger would be likely to prevail, but if he had satisfied his appetite, and was holding what was over carelessly, or was anxious to share it with somebody, and if the weaker was excessively desirous of it, there would be nothing to prevent the latter from getting it all. In a similar manner the stomach easily attracts nutriment from the liver when it [the stomach] has a sufficiently strong craving for it, and the appetite of the viscus is satisfied. And sometimes the surplusage of nutriment in the liver is a reason why the animal is not hungry; for when the stomach has better and more available food it requires nothing from extraneous sources, but if ever it is in need and is at a loss how to supply the need, it becomes filled with waste-matters; these are certain biliary, phlegmatic [mucous] and serous fluids, and are the only substances that the liver yields in response to the traction of the stomach, on the occasions when the latter too is in want of nutriment.

Now, just as the parts draw food from each other, so also they sometimes deposit their excess substances in each other, and just as the stronger prevailed when the two were exercising traction, so it is also when they are depositing; this is the cause

Pg 297
[Greek text](#)

of the so-called fluxions,³⁶⁸ for every part has a definite inborn tension, by virtue of which it expels its superfluities, and, therefore, when one of these parts,—owing, of course, to some special condition—becomes weaker, there will necessarily be a confluence into it of the superfluities from all the other parts. The strongest part deposits its surplus matter in all the parts near it; these again in other parts which are weaker; these next into yet others; and this goes on for a long time, until the superfluity, being driven from one part into another, comes to rest in one of the weakest of all; it cannot flow from this into another part, because none of the stronger ones will receive it, while the affected part is unable to drive it away. When, however, we come to deal again with the origin and cure of disease, it will be possible to find there also abundant proofs of all that we have correctly indicated in this book. For the present, however, let us resume again the task that lay before us, *i.e.* to show that there is nothing surprising in nutriment coming from the liver to the intestines and stomach by way of the very veins through which it had previously been yielded up from these organs into the liver. And in many people who have suddenly and completely given up active exercise, or who have had a limb cut off, there occurs at certain periods an evacuation of blood by way of the intestines—as Hippocrates has also pointed out somewhere. This causes no further trouble but sharply purges the whole body and evacuates the plethoras; the passage of the superfluities is effected, of course, through the same veins by which absorption took place.

Pg 299
[Greek text](#)

Frequently also in disease Nature purges the animal through these same veins—although in this case the discharge is not sanguineous, but corresponds to the humour which is at fault. Thus in *cholera* the entire body is evacuated by way of the veins leading to the intestines and stomach.

To imagine that matter of different kinds is carried in one direction only would characterise a man who was entirely ignorant of all the natural faculties, and particularly of the eliminative faculty, which is the opposite of the attractive. For opposite movements of matter, active and passive, must necessarily follow opposite faculties; that is to say, every part, after it has attracted its special nutrient juice and has retained and taken the benefit of it hastens to get rid of all the surplusage as quickly and effectively as possible, and this it does in accordance with the mechanical tendency of this surplus matter.³⁶⁹

Hence the stomach clears away by vomiting those superfluities which come to the surface of its contents,³⁷⁰ whilst the sediment it clears away by diarrhoea. And when the animal becomes sick, this means that the stomach is striving to be evacuated by vomiting. And the expulsive faculty has in it so violent and forcible an element that in cases of *ileus* [volvulus], when the lower exit is completely closed, vomiting of faeces occurs; yet such surplus matter could not be emitted from the mouth without having first traversed the whole of the small intestine, the jejunum, the pylorus, the stomach, and the oesophagus. What is there to wonder at, then, if something should also be transferred from the extreme skin-surface and so reach the intestines and stomach? This also was pointed out to us by Hippocrates, who maintained that not merely pneuma or excess-matter, but actual nutriment is brought down from the outer surface to the original place from which it was taken up. For the slightest mechanical movements³⁷¹ determine this expulsive faculty, which apparently acts through the transverse fibres, and which is very rapidly transmitted from the source of motion to the opposite extremities. It is, therefore, neither unlikely nor impossible that, when the part adjoining the skin becomes suddenly oppressed by an unwonted cold, it should at once be weakened and should find that the liquid previously deposited beside it without discomfort had now become more of a burden than a source of nutrition, and should therefore strive to put it away. Finally, seeing that the passage outwards was shut off by the condensation [of tissue], it would turn to the remaining exit and would thus forcibly expel all the waste-matter at once into the adjacent part; this would do the same to the part following it; and the process would not cease until the transference finally terminated at the inner ends of the veins.³⁷²

Pg 301
[Greek text](#)

Now, movements like these come to an end fairly soon, but those resulting from internal irritants (*e.g.*, in the administration of purgative drugs or in cholera) become much stronger and more lasting; they persist as long as the condition of things³⁷³ about the mouths of the veins continues, that is, so long as these continue to attract what is adjacent. For this condition³⁷⁴ causes evacuation of the contiguous part, and that again of the part next to it, and this never stops until the extreme surface is reached; thus, as each part keeps passing on matter to its neighbour, the original affection³⁷⁵ very quickly arrives at the extreme termination. Now this is also the case in *ileus*; the inflamed intestine is unable to support either the weight or the acidity of the waste substances and so does its best to excrete them, in fact to drive them as far away as possible. And, being prevented from effecting an expulsion downwards when the severest part of the inflammation is there, it expels the matter into the adjoining part of the intestines situated above. Thus the tendency of the eliminative faculty is step by step upwards, until the superfluities reach the mouth.

Pg 303
[Greek text](#)

Now this will be also spoken of at greater length in my treatise on disease. For the present, however, I think I have shewn clearly that there is a universal conveyance or

transference from one thing into another, and that, as Hippocrates used to say, there exists in everything a consensus in the movement of air and fluids. And I do not think that anyone, however slow his intellect, will now be at a loss to understand any of these points,—how, for instance, the stomach or intestines get nourished, or in what manner anything makes its way inwards from the outer surface of the body. Seeing that all parts have the faculty of attracting what is suitable or well-disposed and of eliminating what is troublesome or irritating, it is not surprising that opposite movements should occur in them consecutively—as may be clearly seen in the case of the heart, in the various arteries, in the thorax, and lungs. In all these³⁷⁶ the active movements of the organs and therewith the passive movements of [their contained] matters may be seen taking place almost every second in opposite directions. Now, you are not astonished when the trachea-artery³⁷⁷ alternately draws air into the lungs and gives it out, and when the nostrils and the whole mouth act similarly; nor do you think it strange or paradoxical that the air is dismissed through the very channel by which it was admitted just before. Do you, then, feel a difficulty in the case of the veins which pass down from the liver into the stomach and intestines, and do you think it strange that nutriment should at once be yielded up to the liver and drawn back from it into the stomach by the same veins? You must define what you mean by this expression “at once.” If you mean “at the same time” this is not what we ourselves say; for just as we take in a breath at one moment and give it out again at another, so at one time the liver draws nutriment from the stomach, and at another the stomach from the liver. But if your expression “at once” means that in one and the same animal a single organ subserves the transport of matter in opposite directions, and if it is this which disturbs you, consider inspiration and expiration. For of course these also take place through the same organs, albeit they differ in their manner of movement, and in the way in which the matter is conveyed through them.

Pg 305
[Greek text](#)

Now the lungs, the thorax, the arteries rough and smooth, the heart, the mouth, and the nostrils reverse their movements at very short intervals and change the direction of the matters they contain. On the other hand, the veins which pass down from the liver to the intestines and stomach reverse the direction of their movements not at such short intervals, but sometimes once in many days.

Pg 307
[Greek text](#)

The whole matter, in fact, is as follows:—Each of the organs draws into itself the nutriment alongside it, and devours all the useful fluid in it, until it is thoroughly satisfied; this nutriment, as I have already shown, it stores up in itself, afterwards making it adhere and then assimilating it—that is, it becomes nourished by it. For it has been demonstrated with sufficient clearness already³⁷⁸ that there is something which necessarily precedes actual nutrition, namely *adhesion*, and that before this again comes *presentation*. Thus as in the case of the *animals* themselves the end of eating is that the stomach should be filled, similarly in the case of each of the *parts*, the end of presentation is the filling of this part with its appropriate liquid. Since, therefore, every part has, like the stomach, a *craving*³⁷⁹ to be nourished, it too envelops its nutriment and clasps it all round as the stomach does. And this [action of the stomach], as has been already said, is necessarily followed by the digestion of the food, although it is not to make it suitable for the other parts that the stomach contracts upon it; if it did so, it would no longer be a physiological organ,³⁸⁰ but an animal possessing reason and intelligence, with the power of choosing the better [of two alternatives].

Pg 309
[Greek text](#)

But while the stomach contracts for the reason that the whole body possesses a power of attracting and of utilising appropriate qualities, as has already been explained, it also happens that, in this process, the food undergoes alteration; further, when filled and saturated with the fluid pabulum from the food, it thereafter looks on the food as a burden; thus it at once gets rid of the excess—that is to say, drives it downwards—itself turning to another task, namely that of causing adhesion. And during this time, while the nutriment is passing along the whole length of the *intestine*, it is caught up by the vessels which pass into the intestine; as we shall shortly demonstrate,³⁸¹ most of it is seized by the veins, but a little also by the arteries; at this stage also it becomes *presented* to the coats of the intestines.

Now imagine the whole economy of nutrition divided into three periods. Suppose that in the first period the nutriment remains in the stomach and is digested and presented to the stomach until satiety is reached, also that some of it is taken up from the stomach to the liver.³⁸²

During the second period it passes along the intestines and becomes presented both to them and to the liver—again until the stage of satiety—while a small part of it is carried all over the body.³⁸² During this period, also imagine that what was presented to the stomach in the first period becomes now adherent to it.

During the third period the stomach has reached the stage of receiving nourishment; it now entirely assimilates everything that had become adherent to it: at the same time in the intestines and liver there takes place adhesion of what had been before presented, while dispersal [anadosis] is taking place to all parts of the body,³⁸³ as also presentation. Now, if the animal takes food immediately after these [three

Pg 311
[Greek text](#)

stages] then, during the time that the stomach is again digesting and getting the benefit of this by presenting all the useful part of it to its own coats, the intestines will be engaged in final assimilation of the juices which have adhered to them, and so also will the liver: while in the various parts of the body there will be taking place adhesion of the portions of nutriment presented. And if the stomach is forced to remain without food during this time, it will draw its nutriment from the veins in the mesentery and liver; for it will not do so from the actual body of the liver (*by body of the liver* I mean first and foremost its flesh proper, and after this all the vessels contained in it), for it is irrational to suppose that one part would draw away from another part the juice already contained in it, especially when adhesion and final assimilation of that juice were already taking place; the juice, however, that is in the cavity of the veins will be abstracted by the part which is stronger and more in need.

It is in this way, therefore, that the stomach, when it is in need of nourishment and the animal has nothing to eat, seizes it from the veins in the liver. Also in the case of the spleen we have shown in a former passage³⁸⁴ how it draws all material from the liver that tends to be thick, and by working it up converts it into more useful matter. There is nothing surprising, therefore, if, in the present instance also, some of this should be drawn from the spleen into such organs as communicate with it by veins, *e.g.* the omentum, mesentery, small intestine, colon, and the stomach itself. Nor is it surprising that the spleen should disgorge its surplus matters into the stomach at one time, while at another time it should draw some of its appropriate nutriment from the stomach.

Pg 313
[Greek text](#)

For, as has already been said, speaking generally, everything has the power at different times of attracting from and of adding to everything else. What happens is just as if you might imagine a number of animals helping themselves at will to a plentiful common stock of food; some will naturally be eating when others have stopped, some will be on the point of stopping when others are beginning, some eating together, and others in succession. Yes, by Zeus! and one will often be plundering another, if he be in need while the other has an abundant supply ready to hand. Thus it is in no way surprising that matter should make its way back from the outer surface of the body to the interior, or should be carried from the liver and spleen into the stomach by the same vessels by which it was carried in the reverse direction.

In the case of the arteries³⁸⁵ this is clear enough, as also in the case of heart, thorax, and lungs; for, since all of these dilate and contract alternately, it must needs be that matter is subsequently discharged back into the parts from which it was previously drawn. Now Nature foresaw this necessity,³⁸⁶ and provided the cardiac openings of the vessels with membranous attachments,³⁸⁷ to prevent their contents from being carried backwards. How and in what manner this takes place will be stated in my work "On the Use of Parts," where among other things I show that it is impossible for the openings of the vessels to be closed so accurately that nothing at all can run back. Thus it is inevitable that the reflux into the *venous artery*³⁸⁸ (as will also be made clear in the work mentioned) should be much greater than through the other openings. But what it is important for our present purpose to recognise is that every thing possessing a large and appreciable cavity must, when it dilates, abstract matter from all its neighbours, and, when it contracts, must squeeze matter back into them. This should all be clear from what has already been said in this treatise and from what Erasistratus and I myself have demonstrated elsewhere respecting the tendency of a vacuum to become refilled.³⁸⁹

Pg 315
[Greek text](#)

XIV

And further, it has been shown in other treatises that all the arteries possess a power which derives from the heart, and by virtue of which they dilate and contract.

Put together, therefore, the two facts—that the arteries have this motion, and that everything, when it dilates, draws neighbouring matter into itself—and you will find nothing strange in the fact that those arteries which reach the skin draw in the outer air when they dilate, while those which anastomose at any point with the veins attract the thinnest and most vaporous part of the blood which these contain, and as for those arteries which are near the heart, it is on the heart itself that they exert their traction. For, by virtue of the tendency by which a vacuum becomes refilled, the lightest and thinnest part obeys the tendency before that which is heavier and thicker. Now the lightest and thinnest of anything in the body is firstly *pneuma*, secondly vapour, and in the third place that part of the blood which has been accurately elaborated and refined.

Pg 317
[Greek text](#)

These, then, are what the arteries draw into themselves on every side; those arteries which reach the skin draw in the outer air³⁹⁰ (this being near them and one of the lightest of things); as to the other arteries, those which pass up from the heart into the neck, and that which lies along the spine, as also such arteries as are near these—draw mostly from the heart itself; and those which are further from the heart and skin necessarily draw the lightest part of the blood out of the veins. So also the

traction exercised by the diastole of the arteries which go to the stomach and intestines takes place at the expense of the heart itself and the numerous veins in its neighbourhood; for these arteries cannot get anything worth speaking of from the thick heavy nutriment contained in the intestines and stomach,³⁹¹ since they first become filled with lighter elements. For if you let down a tube into a vessel full of water and sand, and suck the air out of the tube with your mouth, the sand cannot come up to you before the water, for in accordance with the principle of the refilling of a vacuum the lighter matter is always the first to succeed to the evacuation.

Pg 319
[Greek text](#)

XV

It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that only a very little [nutrient matter] such, namely, as has been accurately elaborated—gets from the stomach into the arteries, since these first become filled with lighter matter. We must understand that *there are two kinds of attraction*, that by which a vacuum becomes refilled and that caused by appropriateness of quality;³⁹² air is drawn into bellows in one way, and iron by the lodestone in another. And we must also understand that the traction which results from evacuation acts primarily on what is light, whilst that from appropriateness of quality acts frequently, it may be, on what is heavier (if this should be naturally more nearly related³⁹³). Therefore, in the case of the heart and the arteries, it is in so far as they are hollow organs, capable of diastole, that they always attract the lighter matter first, while, in so far as they require nourishment, it is actually into their *coats* (which are the real *bodies* of these organs) that the appropriate matter is drawn.³⁹⁴ Of the blood, then, which is taken into their cavities when they dilate, that part which is most proper to them and most able to afford nourishment is attracted by their actual coats.

Pg 321
[Greek text](#)

Now, apart from what has been said,³⁹⁵ the following is sufficient proof that something is taken over from the veins into the arteries. If you will kill an animal by cutting through a number of its large arteries, you will find the veins becoming empty along with the arteries: now, this could never occur if there were not anastomoses between them. Similarly, also, in the heart itself, the thinnest portion of the blood is drawn from the right ventricle into the left, owing to there being perforations in the septum between them: these can be seen for a great part [of their length]; they are like a kind of fossae [pits] with wide mouths, and they get constantly narrower; it is not possible, however, actually to observe their extreme terminations, owing both to the smallness of these and to the fact that when the animal is dead all the parts are chilled and shrunken.³⁹⁶ Here, too, however, our argument,³⁹⁷ starting from the principle that nothing is done by Nature in vain, discovers these anastomoses between the ventricles of the heart; for it could not be at random and by chance that there occurred fossae ending thus in narrow terminations.

And secondly [the presence of these anastomoses has been assumed] from the fact that, of the two orifices in the right ventricle, the one conducting blood in and the other out, the former³⁹⁸ is much the larger. For, the fact that the insertion of the vena cava into the heart³⁹⁹ is larger than the vein which is inserted into the lungs⁴⁰⁰ suggests that not all the blood which the vena cava gives to the heart is driven away again from the heart to the lungs. Nor can it be said that any of the blood is expended in the nourishment of the actual body of the heart, since there is another vein⁴⁰¹ which breaks up in it and which does not take its origin nor get its share of blood from the heart itself. And even if a certain amount is so expended, still the vein leading to the lungs is not to such a slight extent smaller than that inserted into the heart as to make it likely that the blood is used as nutriment for the heart: the disparity is much too great for such an explanation. It is, therefore, clear that something *is* taken over into the left ventricle.⁴⁰²

Pg 323
[Greek text](#)

Moreover, of the two vessels connected with it, that which brings pneuma into it from the lungs⁴⁰³ is much smaller than the great outgrowing artery⁴⁰⁴ from which the arteries all over the body originate; this would suggest that it not merely gets pneuma from the lungs, but that it also gets blood from the right ventricle through the anastomoses mentioned.

Now it belongs to the treatise “On the Use of Parts” to show that it was best that some parts of the body should be nourished by pure, thin, and vaporous blood, and others by thick, turbid blood, and that in this matter also Nature has overlooked nothing. Thus it is not desirable that these matters should be further discussed. Having mentioned, however, that there are two kinds of attraction, certain bodies exerting attraction along wide channels during diastole (by virtue of the principle by which a vacuum becomes refilled) and others exerting it by virtue of their appropriateness of quality, we must next remark that the former bodies can attract even from a distance, while the latter can only do so from among things which are quite close to them; the very longest tube let down into water can easily draw up the liquid into the mouth, but if you withdraw iron to a distance from the lodestone or corn from the jar (an instance of this kind has in fact been already given⁴⁰⁵) no further attraction can take place.

Pg 325
[Greek text](#)

This you can observe most clearly in connection with *garden conduits*. For a certain amount of moisture is distributed from these into every part lying close at hand but it cannot reach those lying further off: therefore one has to arrange the flow of water into all parts of the garden by cutting a number of small channels leading from the large one. The intervening spaces between these small channels are made of such a size as will, presumably, best allow them [the spaces] to satisfy their needs by drawing from the liquid which flows to them from every side. So also is it in the bodies of animals. Numerous conduits distributed through the various limbs bring them pure blood, much like the garden water-supply, and, further, the intervals between these conduits have been wonderfully arranged by Nature from the outset so that the intervening parts should be plentifully provided for when absorbing blood, and that they should never be deluged by a quantity of superfluous fluid running in at unsuitable times.

Pg 327
[Greek text](#)

For the way in which they obtain nourishment is somewhat as follows. In the body⁴⁰⁶ which is continuous throughout, such as Erasistratus supposes his *simple vessel* to be, it is the superficial parts which are the first to make use of the nutriment with which they are brought into contact; then the parts coming next draw their share from these by virtue of their contiguity; and again others from these; and this does not stop until the quality of the nutrient substance has been distributed among all parts of the corpuscle in question. And for such parts as need the humour which is destined to nourish them to be altered still further, Nature has provided a kind of storehouse, either in the form of a central cavity or else as separate caverns,⁴⁰⁷ or something analogous to caverns. Thus the flesh of the viscera and of the muscles is nourished from the blood directly, this having undergone merely a slight alteration; the bones, however, in order to be nourished, require very great change, and what blood is to flesh marrow is to bone; in the case of the small bones, which do not possess central cavities, this marrow is distributed in their caverns, whereas in the larger bones which do contain central cavities the marrow is all concentrated in these.

For, as was pointed out in the first book,⁴⁰⁸ things having a similar substance can easily change into one another, whereas it is impossible for those which are very different to be assimilated to one another without intermediate stages. Such a one in respect to cartilage is the myxoid substance which surrounds it, and in respect to ligaments, membranes, and nerves the viscous liquid dispersed inside them; for each of these consists of numerous fibres, which are homogeneous⁴⁰⁹—in fact, actual *sensible elements*; and in the intervals between these fibres is dispersed the humour most suited for nutrition; this they have drawn from the blood in the veins, choosing the most appropriate possible, and now they are assimilating it step by step and changing it into their own substance.

Pg 329
[Greek text](#)

All these considerations, then, agree with one another, and bear sufficient witness to the truth of what has been already demonstrated; there is thus no need to prolong the discussion further. For, from what has been said, anyone can readily discover in what way all the particular [vital activities] come about. For instance, we could in this way ascertain why it is that in the case of many people who are partaking freely of wine, the fluid which they have drunk is rapidly absorbed⁴¹⁰ through the body and almost the whole of it is passed by the kidneys within a very short time. For here, too, the rapidity with which the fluid is absorbed depends on appropriateness of quality, on the thinness of the fluid, on the width of the vessels and their mouths, and on the efficiency of the attractive faculty. The parts situated near the alimentary canal, by virtue of their appropriateness of quality, draw in the imbibed food for their own purposes, then the parts next to them in their turn snatch it away, then those next again take it from these, until it reaches the vena cava, whence finally the kidneys attract that part of it which is proper to them. Thus it is in no way surprising that wine is taken up more rapidly than water, owing to its appropriateness of quality, and, further, that the white clear kind of wine is absorbed more rapidly owing to its thinness, while black turbid wine, is checked on the way and retarded because of its thickness.

Pg 331
[Greek text](#)

These facts, also, will afford abundant proof of what has already been said about the arteries; everywhere, in fact, such blood as is both specifically appropriate and at the same time thin in consistency answers more readily to their traction than does blood which is not so; this is why the arteries which, in their diastole, absorb vapour, pneuma, and thin blood attract either none at all or very little of the juices contained in the stomach and intestines.

299 "Of food to feeder," *i.e.* of the environment to the organism. *cf.* p. 39, chap. [xi](#).

300 "Drawing"; *cf.* p. 116, [note 2](#).

301 For these terms (*prosthesis* and *prosphysis* in Greek) *cf.* p. 39, [notes 5](#) and [6](#).

302 Lit. "through the *energizing* (or *functioning*) of the attractive faculty"; the faculty (*δύναμις*) *in operation* is an activity (*ἐνέργεια*). *cf.* p. 3, [note 2](#).

303 This chapter is an excellent example of Galen's method of reasoning *a priori*. The complementary inductive method, however, is employed in the next chapter. *cf.* p.

- 209, [note 1](#).
- 304 The deductive.
- 305 The *logos* is the argument or “theory” arrived at by the process of λογική θεωρία or “theorizing”; cf. p. 151, [note 3](#); p. 205, [note 1](#).
- 306 The Greek words for the uterus (*mêtrae* and *hysterae*) probably owe their plural form to the belief that the organ was bicornuate in the human, as it is in some of the lower species.
- 307 Note this expression. For Galen’s views on the origin of species, cf. Introduction, p. xxxi., [footnote](#).
- 308 Herophilus of Chalcedon (*circa* 300 B.C.) was, like Erasistratus, a representative of the anatomical school of Alexandria. His book on Midwifery was known for centuries. cf. Introduction, p. [xii](#).
- 309 Relaxation of utero-sacral ligaments as an important predisposing cause of prolapsus uteri.
- 310 That is, at the end of the first stage of labour.
- 311 The pylorus.
- 312 “Chylolysis,” chylification. cf. p. 240, [note 1](#).
- 313 Lit. barley-“chyle,” *i.e.* barley-water.
- 314 *i.e.* not the mere mechanical breaking down of food, but a distinctively vital action of “alteration.”
- 315 *Pepsis*.
- 316 Book I., chaps. [x](#), [xi](#).
- 317 cf. p. 222, [note 1](#).
- 318 *Choledochous*.
- 319 More exactly *peristolé*; cf. p. 97, [note 1](#).
- 320 Neuburger says of Erasistratus that “dissection had taught him to think in terms of anatomy.” It was chiefly the gross movements or structure of organs with which he concerned himself. Where an organ had no obvious function, he dubbed it “useless”; *e.g.* the spleen (cf. p. [143](#)).
- 321 *i.e.* contracting and dilating; no longitudinal movements involved; cf. p. 263, [note 2](#).
- 322 cf. p. 282, [note 1](#).
- 323 Book II., chaps. [ii](#) and [viii](#).
- 324 Note use of psychological terms in biology. cf. also p. 133, [note 3](#).
- 325 “In everything.” cf. p. 66, [note 3](#).
- 326 Galen confuses the nutrition of organs with that of the ultimate living elements or cells; the stomach does not, of course, feed itself in the way a cell does. cf. Introduction, p. [xxxii](#).
- 327 cf. Asclepiades’s theory regarding the urine, p. [51](#).
- 328 The process of *application* or *prosthesis*. cf. p. 223, [note 3](#).
- 329 Mutual influence of organism and environment.
- 330 Qualitative change. cf. Book I., chap. [ii](#).
- 331 Apparently skin-diseases in which a superficial crust (resembling the lichen on a tree-trunk) forms—*e.g.* psoriasis.
- 332 Note especially *pneuma* and innate heat, which practically stand for oxygen and the heat generated in oxidation. cf. p. 41, [note 3](#).
- 333 Book I., chap. [x](#).
- 334 That is to say, faeces are obviously altered food. This alteration cannot have taken place entirely in the small intestine: therefore alteration of food must take place in the stomach.
- 335 cf. p. [39](#).
- 336 Asclepiades held that there was no such thing as real qualitative change; the food was merely broken up into its constituent molecules, and absorbed unaltered. cf. p. 49, [note 5](#).
- 337 *i.e.* denial of forethought in the *Physis*.
- 338 v. p. [9](#), *et passim*.
- 339 cf. p. [97](#).
- 340 It appears to me, from comparison between this and other passages in Galen’s writings (notably *Use of Parts*, iv., 8), that he means by the “two coats” simply the mucous and the muscular coats. In this case the “straight” or “longitudinal” fibres of the inner coat would be the *rugae*; the “circular” fibres of the inner intestinal coat would be the *valvulae conniventes*.

- 341 The term here rendered *peristalsis* is *peristolé* in Greek; it is applied only to the intermittent movements of muscles placed circularly round a lumen or cavity, and comprehends *systolé* or contraction and *diastolé* or dilatation. In its modern significance, *peristalsis*, however, also includes the movements of *longitudinal* fibres. *cf.* p. 97, [note 1](#).
- 342 *i.e.* those containing non-striped or “involuntary” muscle fibres; organs governed by the “natural” pneuma; *cf.* p. 186, [note 3](#).
- 343 By this term is meant only what we should call the “voluntary” muscles.
- 344 *cf.* p. [97](#).
- 345 For “symptom,” *cf.* p. [13](#), and p. 12, [note 3](#). “Transitum namque materiae per angustum corpus id accidens consequitur” (Linacre). Less a “result” or “consequence” than an “accompaniment.”
- 346 *i.e.* this is a purely mechanical process.
- 347 *i.e.* this phenomenon is a proof neither of *peristolé* nor of attraction. *cf.* p. 97, [note 2](#).
- 348 Contraction and dilatation of course being reversed.
- 349 The *channa* is a kind of sea-perch; “a species of *Serranus*, either *S. scriba* or *S. cabrilla*” (D’Arcy W. Thompson). *cf.* Aristotle’s *Nat. Hist.* (D’Arcy Thompson’s edition, Oxford, 1910), IV., xi., 538 A, 20. The *synodont* “is not to be identified with certainty, but is supposed to be *Dentex vulgaris*,” that is, an edible Mediterranean perch. “It is not the stomach,” adds Prof. Thompson, “but the air-bladder that gets everted and hangs out of the mouth in fishes, especially when they are hauled in from a considerable depth.” *cf.* *H. A.*, VIII., ii., 591 B, 5.
- 350 Under the term “neura,” tendons were often included as well as nerves. Similarly in modern Dutch the word *zenuw* (“sinew”) means both a tendon and a nerve; *zenuwachtig* = “nervous.”
- 351 Rather than the alternative reading, τὸν ἔσωθεν χιτῶνα. Galen apparently supposes that the outer coat will not be damaged, as the cuts will pass *between* its fibres. These cuts would be, presumably, short ones, at various levels, no single one of them involving the whole circumference of the gullet.
- 352 *cf.* [p. 205](#).
- 353 Thus Galen elsewhere calls the spleen a mere *emunctory* (ἐκμαγεῖον) of the liver. *cf.* p. 214, [note 1](#).
- 354 *cf.* p. [269](#).
- 355 The urinary bladders of pigs (such as Galen dissected) are thin, and appear to have only one coat.
- 356 *cf.* p. [243](#).
- 357 My suggestion is that Galen refers to (1) the *mucous* coat, with its *valvulae conniventes*, and (2) the *muscular* coat, of which the chief layer is made up of circular fibres. *cf.* p. 262, [note 1](#).
- 358 Or *utility*.
- 359 Relationship between physiology and pathology again emphasized. *cf.* p. 188, [note 2](#).
- 360 Or physicist—the investigator of the Pheis or Nature. *cf.* p. 196, [note 2](#). Note here the use of analogical reasoning. *cf.* p. 113, [note 2](#).
- 361 *cf.* p. [95](#).
- 362 I. [xiii](#).; II. [ii](#).
- 363 Galen’s idea is that if reversal of the direction of flow can occur in the *primae viae* (in vomiting), it may also be expected to occur in the *secundae viae* or absorptive channels.
- 364 For this “delivery,” “up-yield,” or *anadosis*, *v.* p. 13, [note 5](#).
- 365 The mesenteric veins.
- 366 Linacre renders: “Una omnium confluxio ac conspiratio”; and he adds the marginal note “Totum corpus nostrum est conspirabile et confluxile per meatus communes.” *cf.* p. [48](#).
- 367 The alimentary canal, as not being edible, is not considered a *splanchnon* or viscus.
- 368 Lit. *rheums*; hence our term *rheumatism*.
- 369 Here Galen apparently indicates that vital functions are at least partly explicable in terms of mechanical law. *cf.* Introduction, p. [xxviii](#).
- 370 *cf.* pp. [211](#), [247](#).
- 371 See p. 298, [note 1](#).
- 372 The ends of the veins in the alimentary canal from which absorption or *anadosis* had originally taken place.
- 373 *Diathesis*.

- 374 *Diathesis.*
- 375 *Pathos.*
- 376 He means, not only under the stress of special circumstances, but also normally.
- 377 Lit. "rough artery." The air-passages as well as the arteries proper were supposed by the Greeks to carry air (pneuma); diastole of arteries was, like expansion of the chest, a movement for drawing in air. *cf.* p. 317, [note 1](#).
- 378 *cf.* p. 39, chap. [xi](#).
- 379 Lit. *orexis*.
- 380 Lit. a "physical" organ; that is, a mere instrument or organon of the Physis,—not one of the Psyche or conscious personality. *cf.* *semen*, p. 132, [note 1](#).
- 381 *cf.* p. 317, [note 2](#); p. 319, chap. [xv](#).
- 382 Note that absorption takes place from the stomach as well as the intestines. *cf.* p. 118, [note 1](#).
- 383 That is, among the ultimate tissues or cells.
- 384 [Pp. 205-9](#).
- 385 By this term, of course, the air-passages are also meant; *cf.* p. [305](#).
- 386 *cf.* p. 34, [note 1](#).
- 387 *cf.* p. 121, [note 4](#).
- 388 Pulmonary vein, or rather, left auricle. Galen means a reflux through the mitral orifice; the left auricle was looked on rather as the termination of the pulmonary veins than as a part of the heart. *cf.* p. 323, [note 4](#). He speaks here of a kind of "physiological" mitral incompetence.
- 389 *Horror vacui.*
- 390 *cf.* p. 305, [note 2](#).
- 391 *cf.* p. 308, [note 1](#).
- 392 The "mechanical" principle of *horror vacui* contrasted with the "physical" or semi-physiological principle of specific attraction. *Appropriateness* here might almost be rendered *affinity* or *kinship*. *cf.* [note 2](#), *infra*.
- 393 "Related," "akin." *cf.* p. 36, [note 2](#).
- 394 The coats exercise the *vital* traction, the cavities the merely *mechanical*. *cf.* p. 165, [note 2](#).
- 395 Chap. [xiv](#).
- 396 These fossae were probably the recesses between the *columnae carnae*.
- 397 On *logos* *cf.* p. 226, [note 2](#).
- 398 He means the tricuspid orifice. *cf.* p. 121, [note 4](#).
- 399 The right auricle was looked on less as a part of the heart than as an expansion or "insertion" of the vena cava.
- 400 This "vein" (really the pulmonary artery) was supposed to be the channel by which the lungs received nutriment from the right heart. *cf.* p. 121, [note 3](#).
- 401 The coronary vein.
- 402 Galen's conclusion, of course, is, so far, correct, but he has substituted an imaginary direct communication between the ventricles for the actual and more roundabout pulmonary circulation, of whose existence he apparently had no idea. His views were eventually corrected by the Renaissance anatomists. *cf.* Introduction, pp. [xxii](#)-[xxiii](#).
- 403 He means the left auricle, considered as the termination of the pulmonary "arteries"; *cf.* p. 314, [note 3](#).
- 404 The aorta, its orifice being circular, appears bigger than the slit-like mitral orifice.
- 405 p. 87.
- 406 Or we may render it "corpuscle"; Galen practically means the *cell*. *cf.* p. 153, [note 2](#).
- 407 *cf.* the term "cavernous tissue."
- 408 I. x.
- 409 Lit. *homoeomerous*, *i.e.* "the same all through," of similar structure throughout, the *elements* of living matter, *cf.* p. 20, [note 3](#), and *cf.* also the "cell" of Erasistratus, p. [153](#).
- 410 "Delivered," "dispersed"; *cf.* p. 13, [note 5](#).
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ΠΕΡΙ ΦΥΣΙΚΩΝ ΔΥΝΑΜΕΩΝ

Α

Ι

Κ Π. 1 Ἐπειδὴ τὸ μὲν αἰσθάνεσθαι τε καὶ κινεῖσθαι κατὰ προαίρεσιν ἴδια τῶν ζώων ἐστὶ, τὸ
 Ρ. 1 δ' αὐξάνεσθαι τε καὶ τρέφεσθαι κοινὰ καὶ τοῖς φυτοῖς, εἴη ἂν τὰ μὲν πρότερα τῆς
 ψυχῆς, τὰ δὲ δεύτερα τῆς φύσεως ἔργα. εἰ δέ τις καὶ τοῖς φυτοῖς ψυχῆς μεταδίδωσι
 καὶ διαιρούμενος αὐτὰς ὀνομάζει φυτικὴν μὲν ταύτην, αἰσθητικὴν δὲ τὴν ἑτέραν,
 λέγει μὲν οὐδ' οὗτος ἄλλα, τῇ λέξει δ' οὐ πάνυ τῇ συνήθει κέχρηται. ἀλλ' ἡμεῖς γε
 2 μεγίστην λέξεως ἀρετὴν σαφῆνειαν εἶναι πεπεισμένοι καὶ ταύτην εἰδότες || ὑπ'
 οὐδενὸς οὕτως ὡς ὑπὸ τῶν ἀσυνήθων ὀνομάτων διαφθειρομένην, ὡς τοῖς πολλοῖς
 ἔθος, οὕτως ὀνομάζοντες ὑπὸ μὲν ψυχῆς θ' ἅμα καὶ φύσεως τὰ ζῶα διοικεῖσθαι
 φαμεν, ὑπὸ δὲ φύσεως μόνως τὰ φυτὰ καὶ τὸ γ' αὐξάνεσθαι τε καὶ τρέφεσθαι φύσεως
 ἔργα φαμέν, οὐ ψυχῆς.

ΙΙ

Καὶ ζητήσομεν κατὰ τόνδε τὸν λόγον, ὑπὸ τίνων γίνεταί δυνάμεων αὐτὰ δὴ ταῦτα
 καὶ εἰ δὴ τι ἄλλο φύσεως ἔργον ἐστίν.

Ἀλλὰ πρότερόν γε διελέσθαι τε χρὴ καὶ μνηῶσαι σαφῶς ἕκαστον τῶν ὀνομάτων, οἷς
 χρησόμεθα κατὰ τόνδε τὸν λόγον, καὶ ἐφ' ὃ τι φέρομεν πρᾶγμα. γενήσεται δὲ τοῦτ'
 ἐυθὺς ἔργων φυσικῶν διδασκαλία σὺν ταῖς τῶν ὀνομάτων ἐξηγήσεσιν.

Pg 4
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

3 Ὅταν οὖν τι σῶμα κατὰ μηδὲν ἐξαλλάττεται τῶν προϋπαρχόντων, ἡσυχάζειν αὐτὸ
 φαμεν· εἰ δ' ἐξίστατό πη, κατ' ἐκεῖνο κινεῖσθαι. καὶ τοῖνυν ἐπεὶ πολυειδῶς
 ἐξίσταται, πολυειδῶς καὶ κινηθήσεται. καὶ γὰρ εἰ λευκὸν ὑπάρχον μελαίνουτο καὶ εἰ
 μέλαν λευκαίνουτο, κινεῖται κατὰ χροάν, καὶ εἰ γλυκὺ τέως ὑπάρχον αὔθις ||
 αὐστηρὸν ἢ ἔμπαλιν ἐξ αὐστηροῦ γλυκὺ γένοιτο, καὶ τοῦτ' ἂν κινεῖσθαι λέγοιτο κατὰ
 τὸν χυμὸν. ἄμφω δε ταῦτά τε καὶ τὰ προειρημένα κατὰ τὴν ποιότητα κινεῖσθαι
 λεχθήσεται καὶ οὐ μόνον γε τὰ κατὰ τὴν χροάν ἢ τὸν χυμὸν ἐξαλλαττόμενα
 κινεῖσθαι φαμεν, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ θερμότερον ἐκ ψυχροτέρου γενόμενον ἢ ψυχρότερον ἐκ
 θερμότερου κινεῖσθαι καὶ τοῦτο λέγομεν, ὥσπερ γε καὶ εἰ τι ξηρὸν ἐξ ὑγροῦ ἢ ὑγρὸν
 ἐκ ξηροῦ γίνουτο. κοινὸν δὲ κατὰ τούτων ἀπάντων ὄνομα φέρομεν τὴν ἀλλοίωσιν.

Pg 6
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ἐν τι τοῦτο γένος κινήσεως. ἕτερον δὲ γένος ἐπὶ τοῖς τὰς χώρας ἀμείβουσι σώμασι
 καὶ τόπον ἐκ τόπου μεταλλάττειν λεγομένοις, ὄνομα δὲ καὶ τούτῳ φορά.

Αὗται μὲν οὖν αἱ δύο κινήσεις ἀπλαῖ καὶ πρῶται, σύνθετοι δ' ἐξ αὐτῶν αὔξησις τε
 καὶ φθίσις, ὅταν ἐξ ἐλάττονός τι μείζον ἢ ἐκ μείζονος ἔλαττον γένηται φυλάττον τὸ
 οἰκεῖον εἶδος. ἕτεραι δὲ δύο κινήσεις γένεσις καὶ φθορά, γένεσις μὲν ἢ εἰς οὐσίαν
 ἀγωγή, φθορά δ' ἢ ἐναντία.

4 Πάσαις δὲ ταῖς κινήσεσι κοινὸν ἐξάλλαξις τοῦ || προϋπαρχόντος, ὥσπερ οὖν καὶ
 ταῖς ἡσυχίαις ἢ φυλακῇ τῶν προϋπαρχόντων. ἀλλ' ὅτι μὲν ἐξαλλάττεται καὶ πρὸς
 τὴν ὄψιν καὶ πρὸς τὴν γεῦσιν καὶ πρὸς τὴν ἀφήν αἶμα γινόμενα τὰ σιτία,
 συγχωροῦσιν· ὅτι δὲ καὶ κατ' ἀλήθειαν, οὐκέτι τοῦθ' ὁμολογοῦσιν οἱ σοφισταί. οἱ
 μὲν γὰρ τινες αὐτῶν ἅπαντα τὰ τοιαῦτα τῶν ἡμετέρων αἰσθήσεων ἀπάτας τινὰς καὶ
 παραγωγὰς νομίζουσιν ἄλλοτ' ἄλλως πασχουσῶν, τῆς ὑποκειμένης οὐσίας μηδὲν
 τούτων, οἷς ἐπονομάζεται, δεχομένης· οἱ δὲ τινες εἶναι μὲν ἐν αὐτῇ βούλονται τὰς
 ποιότητας, ἀμεταβλήτους δὲ καὶ ἀτρέπτους ἐξ αἰῶνος εἰς αἰῶνα καὶ τὰς φαινόμενάς
 ταύτας ἀλλοιώσεις τῇ διακρίσει τε καὶ συγκρίσει γίνεσθαι φασι ὡς Ἀναξαγόρας.

Pg 8
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

5 Εἰ δὴ τούτους ἐκτραπόμενος ἐξελέγοιμι, μείζον ἂν μοι τὸ πάρεργον τοῦ ἔργου
 γένοιτο. εἰ μὲν γὰρ οὐκ ἴσασιν, ὅσα περὶ τῆς καθ' ὅλην τὴν οὐσίαν ἀλλοιώσεως
 Ἀριστοτέλει τε καὶ μετ' αὐτὸν Χρυσίππῳ γέγραπται, παρακαλέσαι χρὴ τοῖς ἐκείνων
 αὐτοῦς ὀμιλήσαι γράμμασιν· εἰ δὲ γινώσκοντες ἔπειθ' ἐκόντες τὰ χεῖρα πρὸ τῶν
 βελτιόνων || αἰροῦνται, μάταια δῆπου καὶ τὰ ἡμέτερα νομιούσιν. ὅτι δὲ καὶ
 Ἱπποκράτης οὕτως ἐγίνωσκεν Ἀριστοτέλους ἔτι πρότερος ὢν, ἐν ἑτέροις ἡμῖν
 ἀποδέδεικται. πρῶτος γὰρ οὗτος ἀπάντων ὢν ἴσμεν ἰατρῶν τε καὶ φιλοσόφων
 ἀποδεικνύειν ἐπεχείρησε τέτταρας εἶναι τὰς πάσας δραστικὰς εἰς ἀλλήλας
 ποιότητας, ὑφ' ὧν γίνεταί τε καὶ φθείρεται πάνθ', ὅσα γένεσίν τε καὶ φθορὰν
 ἐπιδέχεται. καὶ μέντοι καὶ τὸ κεράνυσθαι δι' ἀλλήλων αὐτὰς ὅλας δι' ὧν
 Ἱπποκράτης ἀπάντων πρῶτος ἔγνω· καὶ τὰς ἀρχὰς γε τῶν ἀποδείξεων, ὧν ὕστερον
 Ἀριστοτέλης μετεχειρίσατο, παρ' ἐκείνῳ πρῶτῳ γεγραμμένας ἔστιν εὐρεῖν.

6 Εἰ δ' ὥσπερ τὰς ποιότητας οὕτω καὶ τὰς οὐσίας δι' ὧν κεράνυσθαι χρὴ νομίζειν,
 ὡς ὕστερον ἀπεφήνατο Ζήνων ὁ Κιτιεύς, οὐχ ἠγοῦμαι δεῖν ἔτι περὶ τούτου κατὰ
 τόνδε τὸν λόγον ἐπεξίεναι. μόνην γὰρ εἰς τὰ παρόντα δέομαι γινώσκεισθαι τὴν δι'
 ὅλης τῆς οὐσίας ἀλλοίωσιν, ἵνα μὴ τις ὁστοῦ καὶ σαρκὸς καὶ νεύρου καὶ τῶν ἄλλων
 ἐκάστου μορίων οἰοῖται μισγάγκειάν τινα τῷ ἄρτῳ νομίση περιέχεσθαι κάπειτ' ἐν ||

Pg 10
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

τῷ σώματι διακρινόμενον ὡς τὸ ὁμόφυλον ἕκαστον ἰέναι. καίτοι πρό γε τῆς διακρίσεως αἷμα φαίνεται γινόμενος ὁ πᾶς ἄρτος, εἰ γοῦν παμπόλλω τις χρόνῳ μηδὲν ἄλλ' εἶη σιτίον προσφερόμενος, οὐδὲν ἦττον ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶν αἷμα περιεχόμενον ἔξει. καὶ φανερώς τοῦτο τὴν τῶν ἀμετάβλητα τὰ στοιχεῖα τιθεμένων ἐξελέγγχει δόξαν, ὡσπερ οἶμαι καὶ τοῦλαιον εἰς τὴν τοῦ λύχνου φλόγα καταναλισκόμενον ἅπαν καὶ τὰ ξύλα πῦρ μικρὸν ὕστερον γινόμενα.

Καίτοι τό γ' ἀντιλέγειν αὐτοῖς ἠρνησάμεν, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ τῆς ἰατρικῆς ὕλης ἦν τὸ παράδειγμα καὶ χρήζω πρὸς τὸν παρόντα λόγον αὐτοῦ, διὰ τοῦτ' ἐμνημόνευσα. καταλιπόντες οὖν, ὡς ἔφην, τὴν πρὸς τούτους ἀντιλογίαν, <ἐνδὸν> τοῖς βουλομένοις τὰ τῶν παλαιῶν ἐκμανθάνειν κάξ ὡν ἡμεῖς ἰδίᾳ περὶ αὐτῶν ἐπεσκέμμεθα.

7 Τὸν ἐφεξῆς λόγον ἅπαντα ποιησόμεθα ζητοῦντες ὑπὲρ ὧν ἐξ ἀρχῆς προϋθέμεθα, πόσαι τε καὶ τίνες εἰσὶν αἱ τῆς φύσεως δυνάμεις καὶ τί ποιεῖν ἔργον ἐκάστη πέφυκεν. ἔργον δὲ δηλονότι καλῶ τὸ γεγονὸς ἤδη καὶ συμπεπληρωμένον ὑπὸ τῆς ἐνεργείας αὐτῶν, οἷον τὸ αἷμα, τὴν σάρκα, τὸ νεῦρον· ἐνεργεῖαν δὲ τὴν δραστηκὴν ὀνομάζω κίνησιν καὶ τὴν ταύτης αἰτίαν δύναμιν. ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἐν τῷ τὸ σιτίον αἷμα γίνεσθαι παθητικὴ μὲν ἡ τοῦ σιτίου, δραστηκὴ δ' ἡ τῆς φλεβὸς γίνεταί κίνησις, ὡσαύτως δὲ κἂν τῷ μεταφέρειν τὰ κῶλα κινεῖ μὲν ὁ μῦς, κινεῖται δὲ τὰ ὀστά, τὴν μὲν τῆς φλεβὸς καὶ τῶν μυῶν κίνησιν ἐνεργεῖαν εἶναί φημι, τὴν δὲ τῶν σιτίων τε καὶ τῶν ὀστέων σύμπτωμά τε καὶ πάθημα· τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀλλοιοῦται, τὰ δὲ φέρεται. τὴν μὲν οὖν ἐνεργεῖαν ἐγγχωρεῖ καλεῖν καὶ ἔργον τῆς φύσεως, οἷον τὴν πέψιν, τὴν ἀνάδοσιν, τὴν αἰμάτωσιν, οὐ μὴν τὸ γ' ἔργον ἐξ ἅπαντος ἐνεργεῖαν· ἡ γὰρ τοι σὰρξ ἔργον μὲν ἐστὶ τῆς φύσεως, οὐ μὴν ἐνεργεία γε. δῆλον οὖν, ὡς θάτερον μὲν τῶν ὀνομάτων διχῶς λέγεται, θάτερον δ' οὐ.

Pg 12
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

III

8 Ἔμοι μὲν οὖν καὶ ἡ φλεψὶ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἀπάντων ἕκαστον διὰ τὴν ἐκ τῶν τεττάρων ποῖαν κρᾶσιν ὡδί πως ἐνεργεῖν δοκεῖ. εἰσὶ δὲ γε μὴν οὐκ ὀλίγοι τινὲς ἄνδρες || οὐδ' ἄδοξοι, φιλόσοφοί τε καὶ ἰατροί, τῷ μὲν θερμῷ καὶ τῷ ψυχρῷ τὸ δρᾶν ἀναφέροντες, ὑποβάλλοντες δ' αὐτοῖς παθητικὰ τὸ ξηρὸν τε καὶ τὸ ὑγρὸν. καὶ πρῶτός γ' Ἀριστοτέλης τὰς τῶν κατὰ μέρος ἀπάντων αἰτίας εἰς ταύτας ἀνάγειν πειράται τὰς ἀρχάς, ἠκολούθησε δ' ὕστερον αὐτῷ καὶ ὁ ἀπὸ τῆς στοᾶς χορός. καίτοι τούτοις μὲν, ὡς ἂν καὶ αὐτῶν τῶν στοιχείων τὴν εἰς ἄλληλα μεταβολὴν χύσεσιν τέ τισι καὶ πιληροῦσιν ἀναφέρουσιν, εὐλογον ἦν ἀρχὰς δραστηκᾶς ποιήσασθαι τὸ θερμὸν καὶ τὸ ψυχρὸν, Ἀριστοτέλει δ' οὐχ οὕτως, ἀλλὰ ταῖς τέτταρσι ποιότησιν εἰς τὴν τῶν στοιχείων γένεσιν χρωμένῳ βέλτιον ἦν καὶ τὰς τῶν κατὰ μέρος αἰτίας ἀπάσας εἰς ταύτας ἀνάγειν. τί δήποτ' οὖν ἐν μὲν τοῖς περὶ γενέσεως καὶ φθορᾶς ταῖς τέτταρσι χρῆται, ἐν δὲ τοῖς μετεωρολογικοῖς καὶ τοῖς προβλήμασι καὶ ἄλλοθι πολλαχόθι ταῖς δύο μόνας; εἰ μὲν γὰρ ὡς ἐν τοῖς ζώοις τε καὶ τοῖς φυτοῖς μᾶλλον μὲν δρᾶ τὸ θερμὸν καὶ τὸ ψυχρὸν, ἦττον δὲ τὸ ξηρὸν καὶ τὸ ὑγρὸν ἀποφαίνονται, ἴσως ἂν ἔχοι καὶ 9 τὸν Ἱπποκράτην σύμψηφον· εἰ δ' ὡσαύτως ἐν || ἅπασιν, οὐκέτ' οἶμαι συγχωρήσειν τοῦτο μὴ ὅτι τὸν Ἱπποκράτην ἀλλὰ μηδ' αὐτὸν τὸν Ἀριστοτέλην μεμνησθαί γε βουλόμενον ὧν ἐν τοῖς περὶ γενέσεως καὶ φθορᾶς οὐχ ἀπλῶς ἀλλὰ μετ' ἀποδείξεως αὐτὸς ἡμᾶς ἐδίδαξεν. ἀλλὰ περὶ μὲν τούτων κἂν τοῖς περὶ κρᾶσεων, εἰς ὅσον ἰατρῷ χρήσιμον, ἐπεσκεψάμεθα.

Pg 14
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

IV

10 Ἡ δ' οὖν δύναμις ἡ ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶν ἡ αἰματοποιητικὴ προσαγορευομένη καὶ πᾶσα δ' ἄλλη δύναμις ἐν τῷ πρὸς τι νερόηται· πρῶτως μὲν γὰρ τῆς ἐνεργείας αἰτία, ἦδη δὲ καὶ τοῦ ἔργου κατὰ συμβεβηκός. ἀλλ' εἴπερ ἡ αἰτία πρὸς τι, τοῦ γὰρ ὑπ' αὐτῆς γενομένου μόνου, τῶν δ' ἄλλων οὐδενός, εὐδηλον, ὅτι καὶ ἡ δύναμις ἐν τῷ πρὸς τι. καὶ μέχρι γ' ἂν ἀγνοῶμεν τὴν οὐσίαν τῆς ἐνεργούσης αἰτίας, δύναμιν αὐτὴν ὀνομάζομεν, εἶναί τινα λέγοντες ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶν αἰματοποιητικὴν, ὡσαύτως δὲ κἂν τῇ κοιλίᾳ πεπτικὴν κἂν τῇ καρδίᾳ σφυγμικὴν καὶ καθ' ἕκαστον τῶν ἄλλων ἰδίαν τινὰ τῆς || κατὰ τὸ μόριον ἐνεργείας. εἴπερ οὖν μεθόδῳ μέλλοιμεν ἐξευρῆσειν, ὁπόσαι τε καὶ ὁποῖαί τινες αἱ δυνάμεις εἰσὶν, ἀπὸ τῶν ἔργων αὐτῶν ἀρκτέον· ἕκαστον γὰρ αὐτῶν ὑπὸ τινος ἐνεργείας γίνεταί καὶ τούτων ἐκάστης προηγείται τις αἰτία.

Pg 16
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

V

Ἔργα τοίνυν τῆς φύσεως ἔτι μὲν κνουμένου τε καὶ διαπλαττομένου τοῦ ζώου τὰ σύμπαντ' ἐστὶ τοῦ σώματος μόρια, γεννηθέντος δὲ κοινὸν ἐφ' ἅπασιν ἔργον ἡ εἰς τὸ τέλειον ἐκάστῳ μέγεθος ἀγωγὴ καὶ μετὰ ταῦθ' ἡ μέχρι τοῦ δυνατοῦ διαμονή.

Ἐνεργεῖαι δ' ἐπὶ τρισὶ τοῖς εἰρημένοις ἔργοις τρεῖς ἐξ ἀνάγκης, ἐφ' ἐκάστῳ μία, γένεσις τε καὶ αὐξησις καὶ θρέψις. ἀλλ' ἡ μὲν γένεσις οὐχ ἀπλή τις ἐνεργεῖα τῆς φύσεως, ἀλλ' ἐξ ἀλλοιωσεώς τε καὶ διαπλάσεώς ἐστὶ σύνθετος. ἵνα μὲν γὰρ ὁστοῦν γένηται καὶ νεῦρον καὶ φλεψὶ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἕκαστον, ἀλλοιοῦσθαι χρὴ τὴν ὑποβεβλημένην οὐσίαν, ἐξ ἧς γίνεταί τὸ ζῶον· ἵνα δὲ καὶ σχῆμα τὸ δέον καὶ θέσιν καὶ κοιλότητάς τινας καὶ ἀποφύσεις καὶ συμφύσεις καὶ τάλλα || τὰ τοιαῦτα

11
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

κτῆσθαι, διαπλάττεσθαι χρῆ τὴν ἀλλοιουμένην οὐσίαν, ἣν δὴ καὶ ὕλην τοῦ ζώου καλῶν, ὡς τῆς νεῶς τὰ ξύλα καὶ τῆς εἰκόνης τὸν κηρὸν, οὐκ ἂν ἀμάρτοις.

Ἡ δ' αὖξῆσις ἐπίδοσις ἐστὶ καὶ διάστασις κατὰ μήκος καὶ πλάτος καὶ βάθος τῶν στερεῶν τοῦ ζώου μορίων, ὥνπερ καὶ ἡ διάπλασις ἦν, ἡ δὲ θρέψις πρόσθεσις τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἄνευ διαστάσεως.

VI

Περὶ πρώτης οὖν τῆς γενέσεως εἵπωμεν, ἣν ἐξ ἀλλοιώσεως θ' ἅμα καὶ διαπλάσεως ἐλέγομεν γίνεσθαι.

12 Καταβληθέντος δὴ τοῦ σπέρματος εἰς τὴν μήτραν ἢ εἰς τὴν γῆν, οὐδὲν γὰρ διαφέρει, χρόνοις τισὶν ὠρισμένοις πάμπολλα συνίσταται μόρια τῆς γεννωμένης οὐσίας ὑγρότητι καὶ ξηρότητι καὶ ψυχρότητι καὶ θερμότητι καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις ἅπασιν, ὅσα τούτοις ἔπεται, διαφέροντα. τὰ δ' ἐπόμενα γινώσκεις, εἵπερ ὅλως ἐφιλοσόφησάς τι περὶ γενέσεως καὶ φθορᾶς· αἱ λοιπαὶ γὰρ τῶν ἀπτῶν ὀνομαζομένων διαφορῶν ταῖς εἰρημέναις ἔπονται πρῶται καὶ μάλιστα, μετὰ δὲ ταύτ' αἱ γευσταί τε καὶ ὀσφρηταί καὶ ὄραταί. σκληρότης μὲν οὖν καὶ μαλακότης καὶ γλισχρότης καὶ κραυρότης καὶ κουφότης καὶ βαρύτης καὶ πυκνότης καὶ ἀραιότης καὶ λειότης καὶ τραχύτης καὶ παχύτης καὶ λεπτότης ἀπταὶ διαφοραὶ καὶ εἴρηται περὶ πασῶν Ἀριστοτέλει καλῶς, οἶσθα δὲ δήπου καὶ τὰς γευστάς τε καὶ ὀσφρητάς καὶ ὄρατάς διαφοράς, ὥστ', εἰ μὲν τὰς πρῶτας τε καὶ στοιχειώδεις ἀλλοιωτικὰς δυνάμεις ζητοίης, ὑγρότης ἐστὶ καὶ ξηρότης καὶ ψυχρότης καὶ θερμότης· εἰ δὲ τὰς ἐκ τῆς τούτων κράσεως γενομένας, τοσαῦτα καθ' ἕκαστον ἔσονται ζῶον, ὅσαπερ ἂν αὐτοῦ τὰ αἰσθητὰ στοιχεῖα ὑπάρχη· καλεῖται δ' αἰσθητὰ στοιχεῖα τὰ ὁμοιομερῆ πάντα τοῦ σώματος μόρια· καὶ ταῦτ' οὐκ ἐκ μεθόδου τινὸς ἀλλ' αὐτόπτην γενόμενον ἐκμαθεῖν χρῆ διὰ τῶν ἀνατομῶν.

Pg 20
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

13 Ὅστοῦν δὴ καὶ χόνδρον καὶ νεῦρον καὶ ὑμένα καὶ σύνδεσμον καὶ φλέβα καὶ πᾶνθ' ὅσα τοιαῦτα κατὰ τὴν πρώτην τοῦ ζώου γένεσιν ἢ φύσιν ἀπεργάζεται δυνάμει χρωμένη καθόλου μὲν εἰπεῖν τῇ γεννητικῇ τε καὶ ἀλλοιωτικῇ, κατὰ μέρος δὲ θερμαντικῇ τε καὶ ψυκτικῇ καὶ ξηραντικῇ καὶ ὑγραντικῇ καὶ ταῖς ἐκ τῆς τούτων κράσεως γενομέναις, οἷον ὄστοποιητικῇ τε καὶ νευροποιητικῇ καὶ χονδροποιητικῇ· σαφηνεῖας γὰρ ἔνεκα καὶ τούτοις τοῖς ὀνόμασι χρηστέον.

Pg 22
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

14 Ἔστι γοῦν καὶ ἡ ἰδία σὰρξ τοῦ ἥπατος ἐκ τούτου τοῦ γένους καὶ ἡ τοῦ σπληνὸς καὶ ἡ τῶν νεφρῶν καὶ ἡ τοῦ πνεύμονος καὶ ἡ τῆς καρδίας οὕτω δὲ καὶ τοῦ ἐγκεφάλου τὸ ἴδιον σῶμα καὶ τῆς γαστρὸς καὶ τοῦ στομάχου καὶ τῶν ἐντέρων καὶ τῶν ὑστερῶν αἰσθητὸν στοιχεῖον ἐστὶν ὁμοιομερές τε καὶ ἀπλοῦν καὶ ἀσύνθετον· ἐὰν γὰρ ἐξέλῃς ἐκάστων τῶν εἰρημένων τὰς ἀρτηρίας τε καὶ τὰς φλέβας καὶ τὰ νεῦρα, τὸ ὑπόλοιπον σῶμα τὸ καθ' ἕκαστον ὄργανον ἀπλοῦν ἐστὶ καὶ στοιχειώδες ὡς πρὸς αἴσθησιν. ὅσα δὲ τῶν τοιούτων ὀργάνων ἐκ δυοῖν σύγκειται χιτώνων οὐχ ὁμοίων μὲν ἀλλήλοις, ἀπλοῦ δ' ἐκατέρου, τούτων οἱ χιτώνες εἰσι τὰ στοιχεῖα καθάπερ τῆς τε γαστρὸς καὶ τοῦ στομάχου καὶ τῶν ἐντέρων καὶ τῶν ἀρτηριῶν, καὶ καθ' ἕκαστόν γε τῶν χιτώνων ἴδιος ἢ ἀλλοιωτικὴ δυνάμις ἢ ἐκ τοῦ παρὰ τῆς || μητρὸς ἐπιμηνίου γεννήσασα τὸ μόριον, ὥστε τὰς κατὰ μέρος ἀλλοιωτικὰς δυνάμεις τοσαύτας εἶναι καθ' ἕκαστον ζῶον, ὅσαπερ ἂν ἔχη τὰ στοιχειώδη μόρια. καὶ μὲν γε καὶ τὰς ἐνεργείας ἰδίας ἐκάστῳ τῶν κατὰ μέρος ἀναγκαῖον ὑπάρχειν ὥσπερ καὶ τὰς χρεῖας, οἷον καὶ τῶν ἀπὸ τῶν νεφρῶν εἰς τὴν κύστιν διηκόντων πόρων, οἱ δὲ καὶ οὐρητῆρες καλοῦνται. οὗτοι γὰρ οὐτ' ἀρτηρίαί εἰσίν, ὅτι μήτε σφύζουσι μήτ' ἐκ δυοῖν χιτώνων συνεστήκασιν, οὔτε φλέβες, ὅτι μήθ' αἷμα περιέχουσι μήτ' ἔοικεν αὐτῶν ὁ χιτῶν κατὰ τι τῷ τῆς φλεβός· ἀλλὰ καὶ νεύρων ἐπὶ πλεον ἄφεστήκασιν ἢ τῶν εἰρημένων.

Pg 24
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

15 Τί ποτ' οὖν εἰσιν; ἐρωτᾷ τις, ὥσπερ ἀναγκαῖον ὄν ἅπαν μόριον ἢ ἀρτηριαν ἢ φλέβα ἢ νεῦρον ὑπάρχειν ἢ ἐκ τούτων πεπλέχθαι καὶ μὴ τοῦτ' αὐτὸ τὸ νῦν λεγόμενον, ὡς ἴδιος ἐκάστῳ τῶν κατὰ μέρος ὀργάνων ἐστὶν ἡ οὐσία. καὶ γὰρ καὶ αἱ κύστιες ἐκάτερα ἢ τε τὸ οὖρον ὑποδεχομένη καὶ ἡ τὴν ξανθὴν χολὴν οὐ μόνον τῶν ἄλλων ἀπάντων ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀλλήλων διαφέρουσι καὶ οἱ εἰς τὸ ἥπαρ ἀποφυόμενοι || πόροι, καθάπερ στόμαχοί τινες ἀπὸ τῆς χοληδόχου κύστεως, οὐδὲν οὐτ' ἀρτηρίαίς οὔτε φλεψὶν οὔτε νεύροις εἰκόκασιν. ἀλλὰ περὶ μὲν τούτων ἐπὶ πλεον ἐν ἄλλοις τέ τισι κἀν τοῖς περὶ τῆς Ἱπποκράτους ἀνατομῆς εἴρηται.

Αἱ δὲ κατὰ μέρος ἅπασαι δυνάμεις τῆς φύσεως αἱ ἀλλοιωτικαὶ αὐτὴν μὲν τὴν οὐσίαν τῶν χιτώνων τῆς κοιλίας καὶ τῶν ἐντέρων καὶ τῶν ὑστερῶν ἀπετέλεσαν, οἷαπερ ἐστὶ· τὴν δὲ σύνθεσιν αὐτῶν καὶ τὴν τῶν ἐμφυομένων πλοκὴν καὶ τὴν εἰς τὸ ἐντερον ἔκφυσιν καὶ τὴν τῆς ἔνδον κοιλότητος ἰδέαν καὶ τὰλλ' ὅσα τοιαῦτα δυνάμεις τις ἕτερα διέπλασεν, ἣν διαπλαστικὴν ὀνομάζομεν, ἣν δὴ καὶ τεχνικὴν εἶναι λέγομεν, μᾶλλον δ' ἀρίστην καὶ ἄκραν τέχνην καὶ πάντα τινὸς ἔνεκα ποιούσαν, ὡς μηδὲν ἀργὸν εἶναι μηδὲ περιττὸν μηδ' ὅλως οὕτως ἔχον, ὡς δύνασθαι βέλτιον ἐτέρως ἔχειν. ἀλλὰ τοῦτο μὲν ἐν τοῖς περὶ χρεῖας μορίων ἀποδείξομεν. ||

Pg 26
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

VII

16 Ἐπὶ δὲ τὴν αὖξῆτικὴν ἤδη μεταβάντες δυνάμιν αὐτὸ τοῦθ' ὑπομνήσωμεν πρῶτον, ὡς ὑπάρχει μὲν καὶ αὐτὴ τοῖς κρουμένοις ὥσπερ καὶ ἡ θρεπτικὴ· ἀλλ' οἷον ὑπερέτιδές

τινές εἰσι τῆνικαῦτα τῶν προειρημένων δυνάμεων, οὐκ ἐν αὐταῖς ἔχουσαι τὸ πᾶν κῦρος. ἐπειδὴν δὲ τὸ τέλειον ἀπολάβῃ μέγεθος τὸ ζῶον, ἐν τῷ μετὰ τὴν ἀποκύησιν χρόνῳ παντὶ μέχρι τῆς ἀκμῆς ἢ μὲν ἀύξητικὴ τῆνικαῦτα κρατεῖ· βοηθοὶ δ' αὐτῆς καὶ οἷον ὑπηρετίδες ἢ τ' ἀλλοιωτικὴ δυνάμις ἐστὶ καὶ ἡ θεραπευτικὴ. τί οὖν τὸ ἴδιόν ἐστι τῆς ἀύξητικῆς δυνάμεως; εἰς πᾶν μέρος ἐκτεῖναι τὰ πεφυκότα. καλεῖται δ' οὕτω τὰ στερεὰ μόρια τοῦ σώματος, ἀρτηρίαι καὶ φλέβες καὶ νεῦρα καὶ ὅσῃα καὶ χόνδροι καὶ ὑμένες καὶ σύνδεσμοι καὶ οἱ χιτῶνες ἅπαντες, οὓς στοιχειώδεις τε καὶ ὁμοιομερεῖς καὶ ἀπλοῦς ὀλίγον ἔμπροσθεν ἐκαλοῦμεν. ὅτῳ δὲ τρόπῳ τὴν εἰς πᾶν μέρος ἔκτασιν ἴσχουσιν, ἐγὼ φράσω παράδειγμά τι πρότερον εἰπὼν ἕνεκα τοῦ σαφοῦς. ||

- 17 Τὰς κύστες τῶν ὕων λαβόντες οἱ παῖδες πληροῦσί τε πνεύματος καὶ τρίβουσι ἐπὶ τῆς τέφρας πλησίον τοῦ πυρός, ὡς ἀλεαίνεσθαι μὲν, βλάπτεσθαι δὲ μηδέν· καὶ πολλὴ γ' αὕτη ἢ παιδιὰ περὶ τε τὴν Ἰωνίαν καὶ ἐν ἄλλοις ἔθνεσιν οὐκ ὀλίγοις ἐστίν. ἐπιλέγουσι δὲ δὴ καὶ τι' ἔπη τρίβοντες ἐν μέτρῳ τέ τι καὶ μέλει καὶ ῥυθμῷ καὶ ἔστι πάντα τὰ ῥήματα ταῦτα παρακείμενοι τῇ κύστει πρὸς τὴν αὔξησιν. ἐπειδὴν δ' ἱκανῶς αὐτοῖς διατετάσθαι δοκῇ, πάλιν ἐμφυσῶσί τε καὶ ἐπιδιατείνουσι καὶ αὔθις τρίβουσι καὶ τοῦτο πλεονάκις ποιοῦσιν, ἄχρις ἂν αὐτοῖς ἡ κύστις ἱκανῶς ἔχει δοκῇ τῆς αὔξησεως. ἀλλ' ἐν τούτοις γε τοῖς ἔργοις τῶν παίδων ἐναργῶς, ὅσον εἰς μέγεθος ἐπιδίδωσιν ἢ ἐντὸς εὐρυχωρίας τῆς κύστεως, τοσοῦτον ἀναγκαῖον εἰς λεπτότητα καθαιρεῖσθαι τὸ σῶμα καὶ εἴ γε τὴν λεπτότητα ταύτην ἀνατρέφειν οἷοί τ' ἦσαν οἱ παῖδες, ὁμοίως ἂν τῇ φύσει τὴν κύστιν ἐκ μικρᾶς μεγάλῃ ἀπειργάζοντο. νυνὶ δὲ τοῦτ' αὐτοῖς ἐνδεῖ τὸ ἔργον οὐδὲ καθ' ἓνα τρόπον εἰς μίμησιν ἐνδεχόμενον ἀχθῆναι μὴ ὅτι τοῖς || παισὶν ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἄλλῳ τινί· μόνῃς γὰρ τῆς φύσεως ἴδιόν ἐστιν.

Pg 28

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

- 18 Ὡστ' ἤδη σοι δῆλον, ὡς ἀναγκαῖα τοῖς ἀύξανοις ἢ θρέψις. εἰ γὰρ διατείνουτο μὲν, ἀνατρέφουτο δὲ μὴ, φαντασίαν ψευδῆ μᾶλλον, οὐκ αὔξησιν ἀληθῆ τὰ τοιαῦτα σώματα κτήσεται. καίτοι καὶ τὸ διατείνεσθαι πάντῃ μόνις τοῖς ὑπὸ φύσεως ἀύξανοις ὑπάρχει. τὰ γὰρ ὑφ' ἡμῶν διατεινόμενα σώματα κατὰ μίαν τινὰ διάστασιν τοῦτο πάσχοντα μειοῦται ταῖς λοιπαῖς, οὐδ' ἔστιν εὐρεῖν οὐδέν, ὃ συνεχῆς ἔτι μένον καὶ ἀδιάσπαστον εἰς τὰς τρεῖς διαστάσεις ἐπεκτεῖναι δυνάμεθα. μόνῃς οὖν τῆς φύσεως τὸ πάντῃ διιστάναι συνεχῆς ἑαυτῷ μένον ἔτι καὶ τὴν ἀρχαίαν ἅπασαν ἰδέαν φυλάττον τὸ σῶμα.

Καὶ τοῦτ' ἔστιν ἡ αὔησις ἀνευ τῆς ἐπιρρεούσης τε καὶ προσπλαττομένης τροφῆς μὴ δυναμένη γενέσθαι.

Pg 30

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

VIII

- 19 Καὶ τοίνυν ὁ λόγος ἤκειν ἔοικεν ὁ περὶ τῆς θρέψεως, ὃς δὴ λοιπός ἐστι καὶ τρίτος ὢν ἐξ ἀρχῆς προϋθέμεθα. τοῦ γὰρ ἐπιρρέοντος ἐν εἴδει τροφῆς παντὶ || μορίῳ τοῦ τρεφομένου σώματος προσπλαττομένου θρέψις μὲν ἢ ἐνέργεια, θεραπευτικὴ δὲ δυνάμις ἢ αἰτία. ἀλλοίωσις μὲν δὴ κἀνταῦθα τὸ γένος τῆς ἐνεργείας, ἀλλ' οὐχ οἷαπερ ἢ ἐν τῇ γενέσει. ἐκεῖ μὲν γὰρ οὐκ ὄν πρότερον ὕστερον ἐγένετο, κατὰ δὲ τὴν θρέψιν τῷ ἤδη γεγονότι συνεξομοιοῦται τὸ ἐπιρρέον καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' εὐλόγως ἐκείνην μὲν τὴν ἀλλοίωσιν γένεσιν, ταύτην δ' ἐξομοίωσιν ὠνόμασαν.

IX

- 20 Ἐπειδὴ δὲ περὶ τῶν τριῶν δυνάμεων τῆς φύσεως αὐτάρκως εἴρηται καὶ φαίνεται μηδεμιᾶς ἄλλῃς προσδεῖσθαι τὸ ζῶον, ἔχον γε καὶ ὅπως αὔξησιν καὶ ὅπως τελειωθῆ καὶ ὅπως ἕως πλείστου διαφυλαχθῆ, δόξειε μὲν ἂν ἴσως ἱκανῶς ἔχειν ὁ λόγος οὗτος ἤδη καὶ πάσας ἐξηγεῖσθαι τὰς τῆς φύσεως δυνάμεις. ἀλλ' εἴ τις πάλιν ἐννοήσειεν, ὡς οὐδενὸς οὐδέπω τῶν τοῦ ζώου μορίων ἐφήσατο, κοιλίας λέγω καὶ ἐντέρων καὶ ἥπατος καὶ τῶν ὁμοίων, οὐδ' ἐξηγήσατο τὰς ἐν αὐτοῖς δυνάμεις, αὔθις δόξειεν ἂν οἷον προοίμιόν τι μόνον εἴρησθαι τῆς χρησίμου διδασκαλίας. || τὸ γὰρ σύμπαν ὧδ' ἔχει. γένεσις καὶ αὔησις καὶ θρέψις τὰ πρῶτα καὶ οἷον κεφάλαια τῶν ἔργων ἐστὶ τῆς φύσεως· ὥστε καὶ αἱ τούτων ἐργαστικαὶ δυνάμεις αἱ πρῶται τρεῖς εἰσι καὶ κυριώταται· δέονται δ' εἰς ὑπηρεσίαν, ὡς ἤδη δέδεικται, καὶ ἀλλήλων καὶ ἄλλων. τίνων μὲν οὖν ἢ γεννητικῆ τε καὶ αὔητικῆ δέονται, εἴρηται, τίνων δ' ἢ θεραπευτικῆ, νῦν εἴρησεται.

Pg 32

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

X

- 21 Δοκῶ γὰρ μοι δεῖξιν τὰ περὶ τὴν τῆς τροφῆς οἰκονομίαν ὀργανά τε καὶ τὰς δυνάμεις αὐτῶν διὰ ταύτην γεγονότα. ἐπειδὴ γὰρ ἡ ἐνέργεια ταύτης τῆς δυνάμεως ἐξομοίωσις ἐστίν, ὁμοιοῦσθαι δὲ καὶ μεταβάλλειν εἰς ἄλλα πᾶσι τοῖς οὓσιν ἀδύνατον, εἰ μὴ τινα ἔχοι κοινωνίαν ἤδη καὶ συγγένειαν ἐν ταῖς ποιότησι, διὰ τοῦτο πρῶτον μὲν οὐκ ἐκ πάντων ἐδεσμάτων πᾶν ζῶον τρέφεσθαι πέφυκεν, ἔπειτα δ' οὐδ' ἐξ ὧν οἷον τ' ἐστὶν οὐδ' ἐκ τούτων παραχρῆμα, καὶ διὰ ταύτην τὴν ἀνάγκην πλείονων ὀργανῶν ἀλλοιωτικῶν τῆς τροφῆς ἕκαστον || τῶν ζώων χρῆζει. ἵνα μὲν γὰρ τὸ ξανθὸν ἐρυθρὸν γένηται καὶ τὸ ἐρυθρὸν ξανθόν, ἀπλῆς καὶ μιᾶς δεῖται τῆς ἀλλοιώσεως· ἵνα δὲ τὸ λευκὸν μέλαν καὶ τὸ μέλαν λευκόν, ἀπασῶν τῶν μεταξὺ. καὶ τοίνυν καὶ τὸ μαλακώτατον οὐκ ἂν ἀθρόως σκληρότατον καὶ τὸ σκληρότατον οὐκ ἂν ἀθρόως μαλακώτατον γένοιτο, ὥσπερ οὐδὲ τὸ δυσωδέστατον εὐωδέστατον οὐδ' ἔμπαλιν τὸ

Pg 34

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

εὐωδέστατον δυσωδέστατον ἐξαίφνης γένοιτ' ἄν.

22 Πῶς οὖν ἐξ αἵματος ὄστουν ἄν ποτε γένοιτο μὴ παχυνθέντος γε πρότερον ἐπὶ πλεῖστον αὐτοῦ καὶ λευκανθέντος ἢ πῶς ἐξ ἄρτου τὸ αἷμα μὴ κατὰ βραχὺ μὲν ἀποθεμένου τὴν λευκότητα, κατὰ βραχὺ δὲ λαμβάνοντος τὴν ἐρυθρότητα; σάρκα μὲν γὰρ ἐξ αἵματος γενέσθαι ῥᾶστον· εἰ γὰρ εἰς τοσοῦτον αὐτὸ παχύνειεν ἢ φύσις, ὡς σύστασιν τινα σχεῖν καὶ μηκέτ' εἶναι ῥυτόν, ἢ πρώτη καὶ νεοπαγῆς οὕτως ἂν εἴη σὰρξ· ὄστουν δ' ἵνα γένηται, πολλοῦ μὲν δεῖται χρόνου, πολλῆς δ' ἐργασίας καὶ μεταβολῆς τῷ αἵματι. ὅτι δὲ καὶ τῷ ἄρτῳ καὶ πολλῷ μᾶλλον θριδα|| κίνη καὶ τεύτλω καὶ τοῖς ὁμοίοις παμπόλλης δεῖται τῆς ἀλλοιώσεως εἰς αἷματος γένεσιν, οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἄδηλον.

23 Ἐν μὲν δὴ τοῦτ' αἴτιον τοῦ πολλὰ γενέσθαι τὰ περὶ τὴν τῆς τροφῆς ἀλλοίωσιν ὄργανα. δεύτερον δ' ἡ τῶν περιττωμάτων φύσις. ὡς γὰρ ὑπὸ βοτανῶν οὐδ' ὄλως δυνάμεθα τρέφεσθαι, καίτοι τῶν βοσκημάτων τρεφομένων, οὕτως ὑπὸ ῥαφανίδος τρεφόμεθα μὲν, ἀλλ' οὐχ ὡς ὑπὸ τῶν κρεῶν. τούτων μὲν γὰρ ὀλίγου δεῖν ὄλων ἢ φύσις ἡμῶν κρατεῖ καὶ μεταβάλλει καὶ ἀλλοιοῖ καὶ χρηστὸν ἐξ αὐτῶν αἷμα συνίστησιν· ἐν δὲ τῇ ῥαφανίδι τὸ μὲν οἰκεῖόν τε καὶ μεταβληθῆναι δυνάμενον, μόγις καὶ τοῦτο καὶ σὺν πολλῇ τῇ κατεργασίᾳ, παντάπασιν ἐλάχιστον· ὅλη δ' ὀλίγου δεῖν ἐστὶ περιττωματικὴ καὶ διεξέρχεται τὰ τῆς πέψεως ὄργανα, βραχέος ἐξ αὐτῆς εἰς τὰς φλέβας ἀναληφθέντος αἵματος καὶ οὐδὲ τοῦτου τελέως χρηστοῦ. δευτέρας οὖν αὐθις ἐδέησε διακρίσεως τῇ φύσει τῶν ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶ περιττωμάτων. καὶ χρεῖα καὶ τούτοις ὀδῶν τέ τινων ἐτέρων ἐπὶ τὰς ἐκ||κρίσεις αὐτὰ παραγουσῶν, ὡς μὴ λυμᾶνιτο τοῖς χρηστοῖς, ὑποδοχῶν τέ τινων οἶον δεξαμενῶν, ἐν αἷς ὅταν εἰς ἱκανὸν πλήθος ἀφίκηται, τμηκαῦτ' ἐκκριθήσεται.

Δεύτερον δὴ σοι καὶ τοῦτο τὸ γένος τῶν ἐν τῷ σώματι μορίων ἐξεύρηται τοῖς περιττώμασι τῆς τροφῆς ἀνακείμενον. ἄλλο δὲ τρίτον ὑπὲρ τοῦ πάντη φέρεσθαι, καθάπερ τινὲς ὁδοὶ πολλὰ διὰ τοῦ σώματος ὄλου κατατετμημένα.

Μία μὲν γὰρ εἴσοδος ἢ διὰ τοῦ στόματος ἅπασιν τοῖς σιτίοις, οὐχ ἔν δὲ τὸ τρεφόμενον ἀλλὰ πάμπολλά τε καὶ πάμπολυ διεστώτα. μὴ τοίνυν θαύμαζε τὸ πλήθος τῶν ὀργάνων, ὅσα θρέψεως ἔνεκεν ἢ φύσις ἐδημιούργησε. τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀλλοιοῦντα προπαρασκευάζει τὴν ἐπιτήδειον ἐκάστῳ μορίῳ τροφήν, τὰ δὲ διακρίνει τὰ περιττώματα, τὰ δὲ παραπέμπει, τὰ δ' ὑποδέχεται, τὰ δ' ἐκκρίνει, τὰ δ' ὁδοὶ τῆς πάντη φορᾶς εἰσι τῶν χρηστῶν χυμῶν, ὥστ', εἴπερ βούλει τὰς δυνάμεις τῆς φύσεως ἀπάσας ἐκμαθεῖν, ὑπὲρ ἐκάστου τούτων ἂν εἴη σοι τῶν ὀργάνων ἐπισκεπτέον.

24 Ἀρχὴ δ' αὐτῶν τῆς διδασκαλίας, ὅσα || τοῦ τέλους ἐγγὺς ἔργα τε τῆς φύσεως ἐστὶ καὶ μόρια καὶ δυνάμεις αὐτῶν.

XI

Αὐτοῦ δὲ δὴ πάλιν ἀναμνηστέον ἡμῖν τοῦ τέλους, οὗπερ ἔνεκα τοσαῦτά τε καὶ τοιαῦτα τῇ φύσει δεδημιούργηται μόρια. τὸ μὲν οὖν ὄνομα τοῦ πράγματος, ὥσπερ καὶ πρότερον εἴρηται, θρέψις· ὁ δὲ κατὰ τοῦνομα λόγος ὁμοίωσις τοῦ τρέφοντος τῷ τρέφόμενῳ. ἵνα δ' αὕτη γένηται, προηγίσασθαι χρὴ πρόσφυσιν, ἵνα δ' ἐκεῖνη, πρόσθεσιν. ἐπειδὴν γὰρ ἐκπέση τῶν ἀγγείων ὁ μέλλων θρέψειν ὅτιοῦν τῶν τοῦ ζώου μορίων χυμός, εἰς ἅπαν αὐτὸ διασπείρεται πρῶτον, ἔπειτα προστίθεται κἄπειτα προσφύεται καὶ τελέως ὁμοιοῦται.

25 Δηλοῦσι δ' αἱ καλούμεναι λεῦκαι τὴν διαφορὰν ὁμοιώσεως τε καὶ προσφύσεως, ὥσπερ τὸ γένος ἐκεῖνο τῶν ὑδέρων, ὃ τινες ὀνομάζουσιν ἀνὰ σάρκα, διορίζει σαφῶς πρόσθεσιν προσφύσεως. οὐ γὰρ ἐνδεῖα δῆπου τῆς ἐπιρροῦσης ὑγρότητος, ὡς ἐνταῦθα τῶν ἀτροφίων τε καὶ φθίσεων, ἢ τοῦ τοιούτου γένεσις ὑδέρου || συντελεῖται. φαίνεται γὰρ ἱκανῶς ἢ τε σὰρξ ὑγρὰ καὶ διάβροχος ἕκαστόν τε τῶν στερεῶν τοῦ σώματος μορίων ὡσαύτως διακείμενον. ἀλλὰ πρόσθεσις μὲν τις γίννεται τῆς ἐπιφερομένης τροφῆς, ἅτε δ' ὑδατωδεστέρως οὕσης ἔτι καὶ μὴ πάνυ τι κεχυμωμένης μηδὲ τὸ γλίσχρον ἐκεῖνο καὶ κολλῶδες, ὃ δὴ τῆς ἐμφύτου θερμασίας οἰκονομία προσγίννεται, κεκτημένης ἢ πρόσφυσις ἀδύνατός ἐστιν ἐπιτελεῖσθαι πλήθει λεπτῆς ὑγρότητος ἀπέπτου διαρροῦσης τε καὶ ῥαδίως ὀλισθαινούσης ἀπὸ τῶν στερεῶν τοῦ σώματος μορίων τῆς τροφῆς. ἐν δὲ ταῖς λεύκαις πρόσφυσις μὲν τις γίννεται τῆς τροφῆς, οὐ μὴν ἐξομοίωσις γε. καὶ δῆλον ἐν τῷδε τὸ μικρῷ πρόσθεν ῥηθὲν ὡς ὀρθῶς ἐλέγετο τὸ δεῖν πρόσθεσιν μὲν πρῶτον, ἐφεξῆς δὲ πρόσφυσιν, ἔπειτ' ἐξομοίωσιν γενέσθαι τῷ μέλλοντι τρέφεσθαι.

26 Κυρίως μὲν οὖν τὸ τρέφον ἤδη τροφή, τὸ δ' οἶον μὲν τροφή, οὕπω δὲ τρέφον, ὁποῖον ἐστὶ τὸ προσφυόμενον ἢ προστιθέμενον, τροφή μὲν οὐ κυρίως, ὁμωνύμως δὲ τροφή· τὸ δ' ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶν ἔτι περιεχόμενον || καὶ τοῦτου μᾶλλον ἔτι τὸ κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα τῷ μέλλειν ποτὲ θρέψειν, εἰ καλῶς κατεργασθεῖη, κέκληται τροφή. κατὰ ταῦτά δὲ καὶ τῶν ἐδεσμάτων ἕκαστον τροφήν ὀνομάζομεν οὔτε τῷ τρέφειν ἤδη τὸ ζῶον οὔτε τῷ τοιοῦτον ὑπάρχειν οἶον τὸ τρέφον, ἀλλὰ τῷ δύνασθαι τε καὶ μέλλειν τρέφειν, εἰ καλῶς κατεργασθεῖη.

Τοῦτο γὰρ ἦν καὶ τὸ πρὸς Ἴπποκράτους λεγόμενον· “Τροφή δὲ τὸ τρέφον, τροφή καὶ τὸ οἶον τροφή καὶ τὸ μέλλον.” τὸ μὲν γὰρ ὁμοιούμενον ἤδη τροφήν ὠνόμασε, τὸ δ' οἶον μὲν ἐκεῖνο προστιθέμενον ἢ προσφυόμενον οἶον τροφήν· τὸ δ' ἄλλο πᾶν, ὅσον

Pg 36

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 38

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 40

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 42

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

XII

27 Ὅτι μὲν οὖν ἀναγκαῖον ὁμοίωσιν τιν' εἶναι τοῦ τρέφοντος τῷ τρεφομένῳ τὴν θρέψιν, ἀντικρυς δῆλον. οὐ μὴν ὑπάρχουσάν γε ταύτην τὴν ὁμοίωσιν, ἀλλὰ φαινομένην μόνον εἶναι φασιν οἱ μῆτε τεχνικὴν οἰόμενοι τὴν φύσιν εἶναι μῆτε προνοητικὴν τοῦ ζώου μῆθ' ὄλως τινὰς οἰκειάς ἔχειν δυνάμεις, αἷς χρωμένη τὰ μὲν ἀλλοιοῖ, τὰ δ' ἔλκει, || τὰ δ' ἐκκρίνει.

Καὶ αὗται δύο γεγόνασιν αἰρέσεις κατὰ γένος ἐν ἰατρικῇ τε καὶ φιλοσοφίᾳ τῶν ἀποφνημαμένων τι περὶ φύσεως ἀνδρῶν, ὅσοι γ' αὐτῶν γινώσκουσιν, ὃ τι λέγουσι, καὶ τὴν ἀκολουθίαν ὣν ὑπέθεντο θεωροῦσι θ' ἅμα καὶ διαφυλάττουσιν. ὅσοι δὲ μῆθ' αὐτὸ τοῦτο συνιᾶσιν, ἀλλ' ἀπλῶς, ὃ τι ἂν ἐπὶ γλώτταν ἔλθῃ, ληροῦσιν, ἐν οὐδετέρᾳ τῶν αἰρέσεων ἀκριβῶς καταμένοντες, οὐδὲ μεμνησθαι τῶν τοιούτων προσήκει.

Τίνες οὖν αἱ δύο αἰρέσεις αὗται καὶ τίς ἡ τῶν ἐν αὐταῖς ὑποθέσεων ἀκολουθία; τὴν ὑποβεβλημένην οὐσίαν γενέσει καὶ φθορᾷ πᾶσαν ἠνωμένην θ' ἅμα καὶ ἀλλοιοῦσθαι δυναμένην ὑπέθετο θάτερον γένος τῆς αἰρέσεως, ἀμετάβλητον δὲ καὶ ἀναλλοίωτον καὶ κατατετμημένην εἰς λεπτὰ καὶ κεναῖς ταῖς μεταξὺ χώραις διειλημμένην ἢ λοιπή.

28 Καὶ τοῖνυν ὅσοι γε τῆς ἀκολουθίας τῶν ὑποθέσεων αἰσθάνονται, κατὰ μὲν τὴν δευτέραν αἴρεσιν οὔτε φύσεως οὔτε ψυχῆς ἰδίαν τινὰ νομίζουσιν οὐσίαν ἢ δύναμιν ὑπάρχειν, || ἀλλ' ἐν τῇ ποιᾷ συνόδῳ τῶν πρώτων ἐκείνων σωμάτων τῶν ἀπαθῶν ἀποτελεῖσθαι. κατὰ δὲ τὴν προτέραν εἰρημένην αἴρεσιν οὐχ ὑστέρᾳ τῶν σωμάτων ἢ φύσις, ἀλλὰ πολὺ προτέρα τε καὶ πρεσβυτέρα. καὶ τοῖνυν κατὰ μὲν τούτους αὐτὴ τὰ σώματα τῶν τε φυτῶν καὶ τῶν ζώων συνίστησι δυνάμεις τινὰς ἔχουσα τὰς μὲν ἔλκτικὰς θ' ἅμα καὶ ὁμοιωτικὰς τῶν οἰκειῶν, τὰς δ' ἀποκριτικὰς τῶν ἀλλοτριῶν, καὶ τεχνικῶς ἅπαντα διαπλάττει τε γεννώσα καὶ προνοεῖται τῶν γεννωμένων ἐτέραις αὐτῆς τισὶ δυνάμεσι, στερκτικῇ μὲν τινὶ καὶ προνοητικῇ τῶν ἐγγόνων, κοινωνικῇ δὲ καὶ φιλικῇ τῶν ὁμογενῶν. κατὰ δ' αὐτὸς τοὺς ἐτέρους οὔτε τούτων οὐδὲν ὑπάρχει ταῖς φύσεσιν οὔτ' ἔννοιά τίς ἐστὶ τῇ ψυχῇ σύμφυτος ἐξ ἀρχῆς οὐκ ἀκολουθίας οὐ μάχης, οὐ διαιρέσεως οὐ συνθέσεως, οὐ δικαίως οὐκ ἀδίκων, οὐ καλῶν οὐκ αἰσχρῶν, ἀλλ' ἐξ αἰσθήσεως τε καὶ δι' αἰσθήσεως ἅπαντα τὰ τοιαῦθ' ἡμῖν ἐγγίγνεσθαι φασὶ καὶ φαντασίαις τισὶ καὶ μνήμαις οἰακίζεσθαι τὰ ζῶα.

29 Ἐνιοὶ || δ' αὐτῶν καὶ ῥητῶς ἀπεφήναντο μηδεμίαν εἶναι τῆς ψυχῆς δύναμιν, ἣ λογιζόμεθα, ἀλλ' ὑπὸ τῶν αἰσθητῶν ἄγεσθαι παθῶν ἡμᾶς καθάπερ βοσκήματα πρὸς μῆδὲν ἀνανεῦσαι μῆθ' ἀντειπεῖν δυνάμενους. καθ' οὓς δηλονότι καὶ ἀνδρεία καὶ φρόνησις καὶ σωφροσύνη καὶ ἐγκράτεια λήρῳς ἐστὶ μακρὸς καὶ φιλοῦμεν οὔτ' ἀλλήλους οὔτε τὰ ἔγγονα καὶ τοῖς θεοῖς οὐδὲν ἡμῶν μέλει. καταφρονοῦσι δὲ καὶ τῶν ὄνειράτων καὶ τῶν οἰωνῶν καὶ τῶν συμβόλων καὶ πάσης ἀστρολογίας, ὑπὲρ ὧν ἡμεῖς μὲν ἰδίᾳ δι' ἐτέρων γραμμάτων ἐπὶ πλεον ἔσκεψάμεθα περὶ τῶν Ἀσκληπιάδου τοῦ ἰατροῦ σκοπούμενοι δογμάτων. ἔνεστι δὲ τοῖς βουλομένοις κάκεινοις μὲν ὀμιλῆσαι τοῖς λόγοις καὶ νῦν δ' ἤδη σκοπεῖν, ὡσπερ τινῶν δυοῖν ὁδῶν ἡμῖν προκειμένων, ὁποτέραν βέλτιόν ἐστὶ τρέπεσθαι. Ἰπποκράτης μὲν γὰρ τὴν προτέραν ῥηθεῖσαν ἐτρέπετο, καθ' ἣν ἠνωται μὲν ἡ οὐσία καὶ ἀλλοιοῦται καὶ σύμπνουν ὄλον ἐστὶ καὶ σύρρουν τὸ σῶμα καὶ ἡ φύσις ἅπαντα τεχνικῶς καὶ δικαίως πράττει δυνάμεις ἔχουσα, καθ' ἧς ἕκαστον τῶν μορίων ἔλκει μὲν || ἐφ' ἑαυτὸ τὸν οἰκεῖον ἑαυτῷ χυμὸν, ἔλξαν δὲ προσφύει τε παντὶ μέρει τῶν ἐν αὐτῷ καὶ τελῶς ἐξομοιοῖ, τὸ δὲ μὴ κρατηθὲν ἐν τούτῳ μῆδὲ τὴν παντελεῖ δυνηθὲν ἀλλοίωσιν τε καὶ ὁμοιότητα τοῦ τρεφομένου καταδέξασθαι δι' ἐτέρας αὐτῶν οἰκτικῆς δυνάμεως ἀποτρίβεται.

XIII

31 Μαθεῖν δ' ἔνεστιν οὐ μόνον ἐξ ὧν οἱ τὰναντία τιθέμενοι διαφέρονται τοῖς ἐναργῶς φαινομένοις, εἰς ὅσον ὀρθότητός τε καὶ ἀληθείας ἤκει τὰ Ἰπποκράτους δόγματα, ἀλλὰ κάξ αὐτῶν τῶν κατὰ μέρος ἐν τῇ φυσικῇ θεωρίᾳ ζητουμένων τῶν τ' ἄλλων ἀπάντων καὶ τῶν ἐν τοῖς ζώοις ἐνεργειῶν. ὅσοι γὰρ οὐδεμίαν οὐδενὶ μορίῳ νομίζουσιν ὑπάρχειν ἐλκτικὴν τῆς οἰκειᾶς ποιότητος δύναμιν, ἀναγκάζονται πολλάκις ἐναντία λέγειν τοῖς ἐναργῶς φαινομένοις, ὡσπερ καὶ Ἀσκληπιάδης ὁ ἰατρὸς ἐπὶ τῶν νεφρῶν ἐποίησεν, οὓς οὐ μόνον Ἰπποκράτης ἢ Διοκλῆς ἢ Ἐρασίστρατος ἢ Πραξαγόρας ἢ τις ἄλλος ἰατρὸς ἄριστος ὄργανα διακριτικὰ τῶν οὔρων πεπιστεύκασις ὑπάρχειν, ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ || μάγειροι σχεδὸν ἅπαντες ἴσασι, ὁσημέραι θεώμενοι τὴν τε θέσιν αὐτῶν καὶ τὸν ἀφ' ἑκατέρου πόρον εἰς τὴν κύστιν ἐμβάλλοντα, τὸν οὐρητῆρα καλούμενον, ἐξ αὐτῆς τῆς κατασκευῆς ἀναλογιζόμενοι τὴν τε χρεῖαν αὐτῶν καὶ τὴν δύναμιν. καὶ πρό γε τῶν μαγείρων ἅπαντες ἀνηρωποὶ καὶ δυσουροῦντες πολλάκις καὶ παντάπασιν ἰσχυροῦντες, ὅταν ἀλγῶσι μὲν τὰ κατὰ τὰς ψόας, ψαμμώδη δ' ἐξουρῶσιν, νεφριτικούς ὀνομάζουσι σφᾶς αὐτούς.

Ἀσκληπιάδην δ' οἶμαι μῆδὲ λίθου οὐρηθέντα ποτὲ θεάσασθαι πρὸς τῶν οὔτων πασχόντων μῆθ' ὡς προηγῆσατο κατὰ τὴν μεταξὺ τῶν νεφρῶν καὶ τῆς κύστεως χώραν ὀδύνη καὶ τὰ τῆς ὀξείας διερχομένου τοῦ λίθου τὸν οὐρητῆρα μῆθ' ὡς οὐρηθέντος αὐτοῦ τὰ τε τῆς ὀδύνης καὶ τὰ τῆς ἰσχυρίας ἐπαύσατο παραχρῆμα. πῶς οὖν εἰς τὴν κύστιν τῷ λόγῳ παράγει τὸ οὔρον, ἄξιον ἀκοῦσαι καὶ θαυμάσαι τὰνδρὸς τὴν σοφίαν, ὃς καταλιπὼν οὔτως εὐρείας ὁδοὺς ἐναργῶς φαινομένης ἀφανεῖς καὶ στενὰς καὶ

Pg 44
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 46
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 48
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 50
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

32 παντάπασι ἀναισθήτους ἢ ὑπέθετο. βούλεται γὰρ εἰς ἀτμοὺς ἀναλυόμενον τὸ πνυόμενον ὑγρὸν εἰς τὴν κύστιν διαδίδοσθαι κάπειτ' ἐξ ἐκείνων αὐθις ἀλλήλοις συνιόντων οὕτως ἀπολαμβάνειν αὐτὸ τὴν ἀρχαίαν ἰδέαν καὶ γίνεσθαι πάλιν ὑγρὸν ἐξ ἀτμῶν ἀτεχνῶς ὡς περὶ σπογγιᾶς τινος ἢ ἐρίου τῆς κύστεως διανοούμενος, ἀλλ' οὐ σῶματος ἀκριβῶς πυκνοῦ καὶ στεγανοῦ δύο χιτῶνας ἰσχυροτάτους κεκτημένου, δι' ὧν εἴπερ διέρχασθαι φήσομεν τοὺς ἀτμούς, τί δὴ ποτ' οὐχὶ διὰ τοῦ περιτοναίου καὶ τῶν φρενῶν διελθόντες ἐπέπλησαν ὕδατος τὸ τ' ἐπιγαστριον ἅπαν καὶ τὸν θώρακα; ἀλλὰ παχύτερος, φησὶν, ἐστὶ δηλαδὴ καὶ στεγανώτερος ὁ περιτόναιος χιτῶν τῆς κύστεως καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἐκεῖνος μὲν ἀποστέγει τοὺς ἀτμούς, ἡ δὲ κύστις παραδέχεται. ἀλλ' εἴπερ ἀνατετμήκει ποτέ, τάχ' ἂν ἠπίστατο τὸν μὲν ἕξωθεν χιτῶνα τῆς κύστεως ἀπὸ τοῦ περιτοναίου πεφυκότα τὴν αὐτὴν ἐκείνῳ φύσιν ἔχειν, τὸν δ' ἔνδοθεν τὸν αὐτῆς τῆς κύστεως ἴδιον πλέον ἢ διπλάσιον ἐκείνου τὸ πάχος ὑπάρχειν.

Pg 52
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

33 Ἀλλ' ἴσως οὐτε τὸ ἢ πάχος οὐθ' ἡ λεπτότης τῶν χιτῶνων, ἀλλ' ἡ θέσις τῆς κύστεως αἰτία τοῦ φέρεσθαι τοὺς ἀτμούς εἰς αὐτήν. καὶ μὴν εἰ καὶ διὰ τὰλλα πάντα πιθανὸν ἦν αὐτοὺς ἐνταυθοῖ συναθροίζεσθαι, τὸ γε τῆς θέσεως μόνης αὐταρκες κωλύσαι. κάτω μὲν γὰρ ἡ κύστις κεῖται, τοῖς δ' ἀτμοῖς σύμφυτος ἢ πρὸς τὸ μετέωρον φορά, ὥστε πολὺ πρότερον ἂν ἐπλησαν ἅπαντα τὰ κατὰ τὸν θώρακά τε καὶ τὸν πνεῦμονα, πρὶν ἐπὶ τὴν κύστιν ἀφικέσθαι.

Καίτοι τί θέσεως κύστεως καὶ περιτοναίου καὶ θώρακος μνημονεύω; διεκπεσόντες γὰρ δῆπου τοὺς τε τῆς κοιλίας καὶ τῶν ἐντέρων χιτῶνας οἱ ἀτμοὶ κατὰ τὴν μεταξὺ χώραν αὐτῶν τε τούτων καὶ τοῦ περιτοναίου συναθροισθήσονται καὶ ὑγρὸν ἐνταυθοῖ γενήσονται, ὡσπερ καὶ τοῖς ὑδρικοῖς ἐν τούτῳ τῷ χωρίῳ τὸ πλεῖστον ἀθροίζεται τοῦ ὕδατος, ἢ πάντως αὐτοὺς χρὴ φέρεσθαι πρόσω διὰ πάντων τῶν ὀπωσοῦν ὁμιλούντων καὶ μηδέποθ' ἴστασθαι. ἀλλ' εἰ καὶ τοῦτό τις ὑπόθοιτο, διεκπεσόντες ἂν οὕτως οὐ τὸ περιτόναιον μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ ἐπιγαστριον, εἰς τὸ περιέχον σκεδασθεῖεν ἢ πάντως ἂν ὑπὸ τῷ δέρματι ἢ συναθροισθεῖεν.

Pg 54
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

34 Ἀλλὰ καὶ πρὸς ταῦτ' ἀντιλέγειν οἱ νῦν Ἀσκληπιάδαιοι πειρῶνται, καίτοι πρὸς ἀπάντων ἀεὶ τῶν παρατυγχανόντων αὐτοῖς, ὅταν περὶ τούτων ἐρίζωσι, καταγελῶμενοι. οὕτως ἄρα δυσσάποτριπτόν τι κακόν ἐστίν ἢ περὶ τὰς αἰρέσεις φιλοτιμία καὶ δυσέκνιπτον ἐν τοῖς μάλιστα καὶ ψώρας ἀπάσης δυσιατότερον.

Τῶν γοῦν καθ' ἡμᾶς τις σοφιστῶν τά τ' ἄλλα καὶ περὶ τοὺς ἐριστικὸς λόγους ἱκανῶς συγκεκριτημένος καὶ δεινὸς εἶπειν, εἴπερ τις ἄλλος, ἀφικόμενος ἐμοί ποθ' ὑπὲρ τούτων εἰς λόγους, τοσοῦτον ἀπέδει τοῦ δυσωπεῖσθαι πρὸς τινος τῶν εἰρημένων, ὥστε καὶ θαυμάζειν ἔφασκεν ἐμοῦ τὰ σαφῶς φαινόμενα λόγοις ληρώδεσιν ἀνατρέπειν ἐπιχειροῦντος. ἐναργῶς γὰρ ὁσημέραι θεωρεῖσθαι τὰς κύστεις ἀπάσας, εἴ τις αὐτὰς ἐμπλήσειεν ὕδατος ἢ ἀέρος, εἶτα δῆσας τὸν τράχηλον πιέζει πανταχόθεν, οὐδαμόθεν μεθειίσας οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἀκριβῶς ἅπαν ἐντὸς ἑαυτῶν στεγοῦσας. καίτοι γ' εἴπερ ἦσαν τινες ἐκ τῶν νεφρῶν εἰς αὐτὰς ἦκοντες αἰσθητοὶ καὶ μεγάλοι πόροι, πάντως ἂν, ἔφη, δι' ἐκείνων, ὡσπερ εἰσῆει τὸ ἢ ὑγρὸν εἰς αὐτάς, οὕτω καὶ θλιβόντων ἐξεκρίνετο. ταῦτα καὶ τὰ τοιαῦτ' εἰπὼν ἐξαίφνης ἀπταίστω καὶ σαφεῖ τῷ στόματι τελευτῶν ἀναπηδήσας ἀπῆει καταλιπὼν ἡμᾶς ὡς οὐδὲ πιθανῆς τινος ἀντιλογίας εὐπορήσαι δυναμένους.

Pg 56
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

35 Οὕτως οὐ μόνον ὑγιᾶς οὐδὲν ἴσασιν οἱ ταῖς αἰρέσεσι δουλεύοντες, ἀλλ' οὐδὲ μαθεῖν ὑπομένουσι. δεόν γὰρ ἀκοῦσαι τὴν αἰτίαν, δι' ἣν εἰσιέναι μὲν δύναται διὰ τῶν οὐρητήρων εἰς τὴν κύστιν τὸ ὑγρὸν, ἐξιέναι δ' αὐθις ὀπίσω τὴν αὐτὴν ὁδὸν οὐκέθ' οἶόν τε, καὶ θαυμάσαι τὴν τέχνην τῆς φύσεως, οὐτε μαθεῖν ἐθέλουσι καὶ λοιδοροῦνται προσέτι μάτην ὑπ' αὐτῆς ἄλλα τε πολλὰ καὶ τοὺς νεφροὺς γεγενῆσθαι φάσκοντες. εἰσὶ δ' οἱ καὶ δειχθῆναι παρόντων αὐτῶν τοὺς ἀπὸ τῶν νεφρῶν εἰς τὴν κύστιν ἐμφυόμενους οὐρητήρας ὑπομείναντες ἐτόλμησαν εἶπειν οἱ μὲν, ὅτι μάτην καὶ οὗτοι γεγονῶσιν, οἱ δ', ὅτι σπερματικοὶ τινὲς εἰσι πόροι καὶ διὰ τοῦτο κατὰ τὸν τράχηλον αὐτῆς, οὐκ εἰς τὸ κῦτος ἐμφύονται. δείξαντες οὖν ἡμεῖς αὐτοῖς τοὺς ὡς ἀληθῶς σπερματικὸς πόρους κατωτέρω τῶν οὐρητήρων ἢ ἐμβάλλοντες εἰς τὸν τράχηλον, νῦν γοῦν, εἰ καὶ μὴ πρότερον, ῥῆθημεν ἀπάξειν τε τῶν ψευδῶς ὑπειλημμένων ἐπὶ τε τὰναντία μεταστήσειν αὐτίκα. οἱ δὲ καὶ πρὸς τοῦτ' ἀντιλέγειν ἐτόλμων οὐδὲν εἶναι θαυμαστὸν εἰπόντες, ἐν ἐκείνοις μὲν ὡς ἂν στεγανώτεροι οὗσιν ἐπὶ πλέον ὑπομένειν τὸ σπέρμα, κατὰ δὲ τοὺς ἀπὸ τῶν νεφρῶν ὡς ἂν ἱκανῶς ἀνευρυσμένους ἐκρεῖν διὰ ταχέων. ἡμεῖς οὖν ἠναγκάσθημεν αὐτοῖς τοῦ λοιποῦ δεικνύνειν εἰσρέον τῇ κύστει διὰ τῶν οὐρητήρων τὸ οὖρον ἐναργῶς ἐπὶ ζῶντος ἔτι τοῦ ζῶου, μόγις ἂν οὕτω ποτὲ τὴν φλυαρίαν αὐτῶν ἐπισχῆσειν ἐλπίζοντες.

Pg 58
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ὁ δὲ τρόπος τῆς δείξεως ἐστὶ τοιοῦσδε. διελεῖν χρὴ τὸ πρὸ τῶν οὐρητήρων περιτόναιον, εἶτα βρόχοις αὐτοὺς ἐκλαβεῖν κάπειτ' ἐπιδήσαντας ἕασαι τὸ ζῶον· οὐ γὰρ ἂν οὐρήσειεν ἔτι. μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα λύειν μὲν τοὺς ἕξωθεν δεσμούς, δεικνύναι δὲ κενὴν μὲν τὴν κύστιν, μεστοὺς δ' ἱκανῶς καὶ διατεταμένους τοὺς οὐρητήρας καὶ κινδυνεύοντας ῥαγῆναι κάπειτα τοὺς βρόχους αὐτῶν ἀφελόντας ἐναργῶς ὁρᾶν ἤδη πληρουμένην οὖρου τὴν κύστιν.

37 Ἐπὶ δὲ τούτῳ ἢ φανέντι, πρὶν οὐρήσαι τὸ ζῶον, βρόχον αὐτοῦ περιβαλεῖν χρὴ τῷ αἰδοίῳ κάπειτα θλίβειν πανταχόθεν τὴν κύστιν. οὐδὲ γὰρ ἂν οὐδὲν ἔτι διὰ τῶν οὐρητήρων ἐπανέλθοι πρὸς τοὺς νεφροὺς. κἂν τούτῳ δῆλον γίνεται τὸ μὴ μόνον ἐπὶ τεθνεώτος ἀλλὰ καὶ περιόντος ἔτι τοῦ ζῶου κωλύεσθαι μεταλαμβάνειν αὐθις ἐκ τῆς κύστεως τοὺς οὐρητήρας τὸ οὖρον. ἐπὶ τούτοις ὀφθεῖσιν ἐπιτρέπειν ἤδη τὸ ζῶον

οὐρεῖν λύνοντας αὐτοῦ τὸν ἐπὶ τῷ αἰδοίῳ βρόχον, εἴτ' αὖθις ἐπιβαλεῖν μὲν θατέρω τῶν οὐρητήρων, ἑᾶσαι δὲ τὸν ἕτερον εἰς τὴν κύστιν συρρεῖν καὶ τινα διαλιπόντας χρόνον ἐπιδεικνύειν ἤδη, πῶς ὁ μὲν ἕτερος αὐτῶν ὁ δεδεμένος μεστὸς καὶ διατεταμένος κατὰ τὰ πρὸς τῶν νεφρῶν μέρη φαίνεται, ὁ δ' ἕτερος ὁ λελυμένος αὐτὸς μὲν χαλαρὸς ἐστί, πεπλήρωκε δ' οὐρου τὴν κύστιν. εἴτ' αὖθις διατεμεῖν πρῶτον μὲν τὸν πλήρη καὶ δεῖξαι, πῶς ἐξακοντίζεται τὸ οὖρον ἐξ αὐτοῦ, καθάπερ ἐν ταῖς φλεβοτομίαις τὸ αἷμα, μετὰ ταῦτα δὲ καὶ τὸν ἕτερον αὖθις διατεμεῖν κάπειτ' ἐπιδήσαι τὸ ζῶον ἔξωθεν, ἀμφοτέρων διηρημενων, || εἴθ' ὅταν ἰκανῶς ἔχειν δοκῆ, λῦσαι τὸν δεσμόν. εὐρεθήσεται γὰρ ἡ μὲν κύστις κενή, πλήρης δ' οὐρου τὸ μεταξὺ τῶν ἐντέρων τε καὶ τοῦ περιτοναίου χωρίον ἅπαν, ὡς ἂν εἰ καὶ ὑδερικὸν ἦν τὸ ζῶον. ταῦτ' οὖν εἴ τις αὐτὸς καθ' ἑαυτὸν βουλευθείη βασανίζειν ἐπὶ ζώου, μεγάλως μοι δοκεῖ καταγνώσεσθαι τῆς Ἀσκληπιάδου προπετείας. εἰ δὲ δὴ καὶ τὴν αἰτίαν μάθοι, δι' ἣν οὐδὲν ἐκ τῆς κύστεως εἰς τοὺς οὐρητήρας ἀντεκρεῖ, πεισθῆναι ἂν μοι δοκεῖ καὶ διὰ τοῦδε τὴν εἰς τὰ ζῶα πρόνοιάν τε καὶ τέχνην τῆς φύσεως.

Pg 60

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ἴπποκράτης μὲν οὖν ὧν ἴσμεν ἰατρῶν τε καὶ φιλοσόφων πρῶτος ἀπάντων, ὡς ἂν καὶ πρῶτος ἐπιγνοὺς τὰ τῆς φύσεως ἔργα, θαυμάζει τε καὶ διὰ παντὸς αὐτὴν ὑμνεῖ δικαίαν ὀνομάζων καὶ μόνην ἐξαρκεῖν εἰς ἅπαντα τοῖς ζώοις φησίν, αὐτὴν ἐξ αὐτῆς ἀδιδάκτως πράττουσαν ἅπαντα τὰ δέοντα· τοιαύτην δ' οὕσαν αὐτὴν εὐθέως καὶ δυνάμεις ὑπέλαβεν ἔχειν ἑλκτικὴν μὲν τῶν οἰκείων, ἀποκριτικὴν δὲ τῶν ἀλλοτρίων καὶ τρέφειν τε καὶ αὐξεῖν αὐ||τὴν τὰ ζῶα καὶ κρίνειν τὰ νοσήματα· καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἐν τοῖς σώμασιν ἡμῶν σύμπνοιάν τε μίαν εἶναι φησι καὶ σύρροισιν καὶ πάντα συμπαθέα. κατὰ δὲ τὸν Ἀσκληπιάδην οὐδὲν οὐδενὶ συμπαθές ἐστί φύσει, διηρημένης τε καὶ κατατεθραυμένης εἰς ἄναρμα στοιχεῖα καὶ ληρώδεις ὄγκους ἀπάσης τῆς οὐσίας. ἐξ ἀνάγκης οὖν ἄλλα τε μυρία τοῖς ἐναργῶς φαινομένοις ἐναντίως ἀπεφῆναι καὶ τῆς φύσεως ἠγνόησε τὴν τε τῶν οἰκείων ἐπισπαστικὴν δύναμιν καὶ τὴν τῶν ἀλλοτρίων ἀποκριτικὴν. ἐπὶ μὲν οὖν τῆς ἐξαιματώσεως τε καὶ ἀναδόσεως ἐξεῦρέ τινα ψυχρὰν ἀδολεσχίαν· εἰς δὲ τὴν τῶν περιττωμάτων κάθαρσιν οὐδὲν ὅλως ἐνῶν εἰπεῖν οὐκ ὤκνησεν ὁμόσε χωρῆσαι τοῖς φαινομένοις, ἐπὶ μὲν τῆς τῶν οὐρῶν διακρίσεως ἀποστερήσας μὲν τῶν τε νεφρῶν καὶ τῶν οὐρητήρων τὴν ἐνέργειαν, ἀδήλους δὲ τινὰς πόρους εἰς τὴν κύστιν ὑποθέμενος· τοῦτο γὰρ ἦν δηλαδὴ μέγα καὶ σεμνὸν ἀπιστήσαντα τοῖς φαινομένοις πιστεῦσαι τοῖς ἀδήλοις.

Pg 62

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ἐπὶ || δὲ τῆς ξανθῆς χολῆς ἔτι μεῖζον αὐτῷ καὶ νεανικώτερον ἐστί τὸ τόλμημα· γεννάσθαι γὰρ αὐτὴν ἐν τοῖς χοληδόχοις ἀγγείοις, οὐ διακρίνεσθαι λέγει.

Πῶς οὖν τοῖς ἰκτερικοῖς ἄμ' ἄμφω συμπίπτει, τὰ μὲν διαχωρήματα μηδὲν ὅλως ἐν αὐτοῖς ἔχοντα χολῆς, ἀνάπλεων δ' αὐτοῖς γιγνώμενον ὅλον τὸ σῶμα; ληρεῖν πάλιν ἐνταῦθ' ἀναγκάζεται τοῖς ἐπὶ τῶν οὐρῶν εἰρημένοις παραπλησίως. ληρεῖ δ' οὐδὲν ἔττοι καὶ περὶ τῆς μελαίνης χολῆς καὶ τοῦ σπληνὸς οὔτε τί ποθ' ὑφ' Ἴπποκράτους εἴρηται συνιεῖς ἀντιλέγειν τ' ἐπιχειρῶν οἷς οὐκ οἶδεν ἐμπλήκτω τινὶ καὶ μανικῷ στόματι.

Pg 64

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Τί δὴ τὸ κέρδος ἐκ τῶν τοιούτων δογμάτων εἰς τὰς θεραπείας ἐκτήσατο; μήτε νεφριτικὸν τι νόσημα δύνασθαι θεραπεῦσαι μήτ' ἰκτερικὸν μήτε μελαγχολικόν, ἀλλὰ καὶ περὶ τοῦ πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις οὐχ Ἴπποκράτει μόνον ὁμολογουμένου τοῦ καθαίρειν τῶν φαρμάκων ἕνια μὲν τὴν ξανθὴν χολῆν, ἕνια δὲ τὴν μέλαιναν, ἄλλα δὲ τινα φλέγμα καὶ τινα τὸ λεπτὸν καὶ ὑδατῶδες περιττωμα, μηδὲ περὶ τούτων συγχωρεῖν, ἀλλ' ὑπ' αὐτῶν τῶν φαρμάκων γίνεσθαι λέγειν τοιοῦτον ἕκαστον τῶν κενομένων, ὡσπερ ὑπὸ τῶν χολη||δόχων πόρων τὴν χολῆν· καὶ μηδὲν διαφέρειν κατὰ τὸν θαυμαστὸν Ἀσκληπιάδην ἢ ὑδραγωγὸν διδόναι τοῖς ὑδεριώσιν ἢ χολαγωγὸν φάρμακον· ἅπαντα γὰρ ὁμοίως κενοῦν καὶ συντήκειν τὸ σῶμα καὶ τὸ σύντηγμα τοιούδε τι φαίνεσθαι ποιεῖν, μὴ πρότερον ὑπάρχον τοιοῦτον.

Ἄρ' οὖν οὐ μαίνεσθαι νομιστέον αὐτὸν ἢ παντάπασιν ἄπειρον εἶναι τῶν ἔργων τῆς τέχνης; τίς γὰρ οὐκ οἶδεν, ὡς, εἰ μὲν φλέγματος ἀγωγὸν δοθείη φάρμακον τοῖς ἰκτεριώσιν, οὐκ ἂν οὐδὲ τέτταρας κυάθους καθαρθεῖεν· οὕτω δ' οὐδ' εἰ τῶν ὑδραγωγῶν τι· χολαγωγῶ δὲ φαρμάκω πλεῖστον μὲν ἐκκενοῦται χολῆς, αὐτίκα δὲ καθαρὸς τοῖς οὕτω καθαρθεῖσιν ὁ χρῶς γίνεσθαι. πολλοὺς γοῦν ἡμεῖς μετὰ τὸ θεραπεῦσαι τὴν ἐν τῷ ἥπατι διάθεσιν ἅπαξ καθήραντες ἀπηλλάξαμεν τοῦ παθήματος. οὐ μὴν οὐδ' εἰ φλέγματος ἀγωγῶ καθαίροις φαρμάκω, πλεον ἂν τι διαπράξατο.

Pg 66

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Καὶ ταῦτ' οὐχ Ἴπποκράτης μὲν οὕτως οἶδε γιγνώμενα, τοῖς δ' ἀπὸ τῆς ἐμπειρίας μόνης ὀρμωμένοις ἐτέρως ἔγνωσται, ἀλλὰ κάκει||νοις ὡσαύτως καὶ πᾶσιν ἰατροῖς, οἷς μέλει τῶν ἔργων τῆς τέχνης, οὕτω δοκεῖ πλὴν Ἀσκληπιάδου. προδοσίαν γὰρ εἶναι νενόμικε τῶν στοιχείων ὧν ὑπέθετο τὴν ἀληθῆ περι τῶν τοιούτων ὁμολογίαν. εἰ γὰρ ὅλως εὐρεθείη τι φάρμακον ἑλκτικὸν τοῦδέ τινος τοῦ χυμοῦ μόνου, κίνδυνος κρατεῖν δηλαδὴ τῷ λόγῳ τὸ ἐν ἐκάστῳ τῶν σωμάτων εἶναι τινα δύναμιν ἐπισπαστικὴν τῆς οἰκείας ποιότητος, διὰ τοῦτο κνήκον μὲν καὶ κόκκον τὸν κνίδιον καὶ ἵπποφαές οὐχ ἔλκειν ἐκ τοῦ σώματος ἀλλὰ ποιεῖν τὸ φλέγμα φησίν· ἄνθος δὲ χαλκοῦ καὶ λεπίδα καὶ αὐτὸν τὸν κεκαυμένον χαλκὸν καὶ χαμαίδρυν καὶ χαμαιλέοντα εἰς ὕδωρ ἀναλύειν τὸ σῶμα καὶ τοὺς ὑδερικοὺς ὑπὸ τούτων οὐ καθαιρομένους ὀνόμασθαι ἀλλὰ κενομένους συναυξόντων δηλαδὴ τὸ πάθος, εἰ γὰρ οὐ κενοῖ τὸ περιεχόμενον ἐν τοῖς σώμασιν ὑδατῶδες ὑγρὸν ἀλλ' αὐτὸ γεννᾷ, τῷ νοσήματι προστιμωρεῖται. καὶ μὲν γε καὶ ἡ σκαμμωνία πρὸς τῷ μὴ κενοῦν ἐκ τοῦ σώματος τῶν ἰκτερικῶν τὴν χολῆν ἔτι καὶ τὸ χρηστὸν αἷμα χολῆν ἐργαζομένη || καὶ συντήκουσα τὸ σῶμα καὶ

43 τηλικαῦτα κακὰ δρῶσα καὶ τὸ πάθος ἐπαύξουσα κατὰ γε τὸν Ἀσκληπιάδου λόγον.

Ὅμως ἐναργῶς ὁράται πολλοὺς ὠφελοῦσα. ναί, φησίν, ὀνίανται μὲν, ἀλλ' αὐτῷ μόνῳ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς κενώσεως. καὶ μὴν εἰ φλέγματος ἀγωγὸν αὐτοῖς δοίης φάρμακον, οὐκ ὀνήσονται. καὶ τοῦθ' οὕτως ἐναργές ἐστιν, ὥστε καὶ οἱ ἀπὸ μόνης τῆς ἐμπειρίας ὀρμώμενοι γινώσκουσιν αὐτό. καίτοι τούτοις γε τοῖς ἀνδράσιν αὐτὸ δὴ τοῦτ' ἐστὶ φιλοσόφημα, τὸ μηδενὶ λόγῳ πιστεύειν ἀλλὰ μόνους τοῖς ἐναργῶς φαινομένοις. ἐκεῖνοι μὲν οὖν σωφρονοῦσιν· Ἀσκληπιάδης δὲ παραπαίει ταῖς αἰσθήσεσιν ἡμᾶς ἀπιστεῖν κελεύων, ἔνθα τὸ φαινόμενον ἀνατρέπει σαφῶς αὐτοῦ τὰς ὑποθέσεις. καίτοι μακρῷ γ' ἦν ἄμεινον οὐχ ὁμόσε χωρεῖν τοῖς φαινομένοις ἀλλ' ἐκεῖνοις ἀναθέσθαι τὸ πᾶν.

Pg 68
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

44 Ἄρ' οὖν ταῦτα μόνον ἐναργῶς μάχεται τοῖς Ἀσκληπιάδου δόγμασιν ἢ καὶ τὸ θέρουσ μὲν πλείονα κενοῦσθαι τὴν ξανθὴν χολὴν ὑπὸ τῶν αὐτῶν φαρμάκων, χειμῶνος δὲ τὸ φλέγμα, καὶ νεανίσκῳ μὲν πλείονα τὴν χολήν, πρεσβύτῃ δὲ τὸ φλέγμα; φαίνεται || γὰρ ἕκαστον ἔλκειν τὴν οὔσαν, οὐκ αὐτὸ γεννᾷ τὴν οὐκ οὔσαν. εἰ γοῦν ἐθελήσαις νεανίσκῳ τινὶ τῶν ἰσχνῶν καὶ θερμῶν ὥρα θέρουσ μήτ' ἀργῶς βεβιωκότε μήτ' ἐν πλησμονῇ φλέγματος ἀγωγὸν δοῦναι φάρμακον, ὀλίγιστον μὲν καὶ μετὰ βίας πολλῆς ἐκκενώσεις τοῦ χυμοῦ, βλάψεις δ' ἐσχάτως τὸν ἄνθρωπον· ἔμπαλιν δ' εἰ χολαγωγὸν δοίης, καὶ πάμπαν κενώσεις καὶ βλάψεις οὐδέν.

Ἄρ' ἀπιστοῦμεν ἔτι τῷ μὴ οὐχ ἕκαστον τῶν φαρμάκων ἐπάγεσθαι τὸν οἰκεῖον ἐαυτῷ χυμόν; ἴσως φήσουσιν οἱ ἀπ' Ἀσκληπιάδου, μᾶλλον δ' οὐκ ἴσως, ἀλλὰ πάντως ἀπιστεῖν ἐροῦσιν, ἵνα μὴ προδῶσι τὰ φίλτατα.

Pg 70
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

XIV

Πάλιν οὖν καὶ ἡμεῖς ἐφ' ἐτέραν μεταβῶμεν ἀδολεσχίαν· οὐ γὰρ ἐπιτρέπουσιν οἱ σοφισταὶ τῶν ἀξίων τι ζητημάτων προχειρίζεσθαι καίτοι παμπόλλων ὑπαρχόντων, ἀλλὰ κατατρίβειν ἀναγκάζουσι τὸν χρόνον εἰς τὴν τῶν σοφισμάτων, ὧν προβάλλουσι, λύσιν.

45 Τίς οὖν ἡ ἀδολεσχία; ἡ ἐνδοξος αὕτη καὶ πολυθρύλητος λίθος ἢ τὸν σίδηρον || ἐπισπωμένη. τάχα γὰρ ἂν αὕτη ποτὲ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτῶν ἐπισπάσαιτο πιστεύειν εἶναι τινας ἐν ἑκάστῳ τῶν σωμάτων ἑλκτικὰς τῶν οἰκεῖων ποιότητων δυνάμεις.

Ἐπίκουρος μὲν οὖν καίτοι παραπλησίως Ἀσκληπιάδῃ στοιχείοις πρὸς τὴν φυσιολογίαν χρώμενος ὅμως ὁμολογεῖ, πρὸς μὲν τῆς ἡρακλείας λίθου τὸν σίδηρον ἔλκεσθαι, πρὸς δὲ τῶν ἠλέκτρων τὰ κυρήθια καὶ πειράται γε καὶ τὴν αἰτίαν ἀποδιδόναι τοῦ φαινομένου. τὰς γὰρ ἀπορρεούσας ἀτόμους ἀπὸ τῆς λίθου ταῖς ἀπορρεούσας ἀπὸ τοῦ σιδήρου τοῖς σχήμασιν οἰκείας εἶναι φησιν, ὥστε περιπλέκεσθαι ῥαδίως. προσκρουούσας οὖν αὐτὰς τοῖς συγκρίμασιν ἑκατέρους τῆς τε λίθου καὶ τοῦ σιδήρου κάπειτ' εἰς τὸ μέσον ἀποπαλλομένης οὕτως ἀλλήλαις τε περιπλέκεσθαι καὶ συνεπισπᾶσθαι τὸν σίδηρον. τὸ μὲν οὖν τῶν ὑποθέσεων εἰς τὴν αἰτιολογίαν ἀπίθανον ἀντικρυς δῆλον, ὅμως δ' οὖν ὁμολογεῖ τὴν ὀλκήν. καὶ οὕτω γε καὶ κατὰ τὰ σώματα τῶν ζώων φησὶ γίνεσθαι τὰς τ' ἀναδόσεις καὶ τὰς διακρίσεις τῶν περιττωμάτων καὶ τὰς τῶν καθαιρόντων φαρμάκων ἐνεργείας.

Pg 72
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

46 Ἀσκληπιάδης δὴ τό τε τῆς εἰρημένης αἰτίας ἀπίθανον || ὑπιδόμενος καὶ μηδεμίαν ἄλλην ἐφ' οἷς ὑπέθετο στοιχείοις ἐξευρίσκων πιθανὴν ἐπὶ τὸ μὴδ' ὅλως ἔλκεσθαι λέγειν ὑπὸ μηδενὸς μηδὲν ἀναισχυνητήσας ἐτράπετο, δέον, εἰ μήθ' οἷς Ἐπίκουρος εἶπεν ἠρέσκετο μήτ' ἄλλα βελτίω λέγειν εἶχεν, ἀποστήναι τῶν ὑποθέσεων καὶ τὴν τε φύσιν εἰπεῖν τεχνικὴν καὶ τὴν οὐσίαν τῶν ὄντων ἐνουμένην τε πρὸς ἐαυτὴν αἰεὶ καὶ ἀλλοιουμένην ὑπὸ τῶν ἐαυτῆς μορίων εἰς ἄλλαλα δρώντων τε καὶ πασχόντων. εἰ γὰρ ταῦθ' ὑπέθετο, χαλεπὸν οὐδὲν ἦν τὴν τεχνικὴν ἐκείνην φύσιν ὁμολογήσαι δυνάμεις ἔχειν ἐπισπαστικὴν μὲν τῶν οἰκεῖων, ἀποκριτικὴν δὲ τῶν ἀλλοτρίων. οὐ γὰρ δι' ἄλλο τί γ' ἦν αὐτῇ τὸ τεχνικῆ τ' εἶναι καὶ τοῦ ζώου διασωστικῆ καὶ τῶν νοσημάτων κριτικῆ παρὰ τὸ προσίεσθαι μὲν καὶ φυλάττειν τὸ οἰκεῖον, ἀποκρίνειν δὲ τὸ ἀλλότριον.

47 Ἀλλ' Ἀσκληπιάδης κἀνταῦθα τὸ μὲν ἀκόλουθον ταῖς ἀρχαῖς αἷς ὑπέθετο συνείδεν, οὐ μὴν τὴν γε πρὸς τὸ φαινόμενον ἐναργῶς ἠδέσθη μάχην, ἀλλ' ὁμόσε || χωρεῖ καὶ περὶ τούτου πᾶσιν οὐκ ἰατροῖς μόνον ἀλλ' ἤδη καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις ἀνθρώποις οὔτε κρίσιν εἶναι τινα λέγων οὔθ' ἡμέραν κρίσιμον οὔθ' ὅλως οὐδὲν ἐπὶ σωτηρίᾳ τοῦ ζώου πραγματεύεσθαι τὴν φύσιν. αἰεὶ γὰρ τὸ μὲν ἀκόλουθον φυλάττειν βούλεται, τὸ δ' ἐναργῶς φαινόμενον ἀνατρέπειν ἔμπαλιν Ἐπικούρῳ. τιθεὶς γὰρ ἐκεῖνος αἰεὶ τὸ φαινόμενον αἰτίαν αὐτοῦ ψυχρὰν ἀποδίδωσι. τὰ γὰρ ἀποπαλλόμενα σμικρὰ σώματα τῆς ἡρακλείας λίθου τοιοῦτοις ἐτέροις περιπλέκεσθαι μορίοις τοῦ σιδήρου κάπειτα διὰ τῆς περιπλοκῆς ταύτης μηδαμῶ φαινομένης ἐπισπᾶσθαι βαρεῖαν οὕτως οὐσίαν οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ἂν τις πεισθεῖη. καὶ γὰρ εἰ τοῦτο συγχωρήσομεν, τό γε τῷ σιδήρῳ πάλιν ἕτερον προστεθέν τι συνάπτεσθαι τὴν αὐτὴν αἰτίαν οὐκέτι προσίεται.

Pg 74
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

48 Τί γὰρ ἐροῦμεν; ἢ δηλαδὴ τῶν ἀπορρεόντων τῆς λίθου μορίων ἕνια μὲν προσκρούσαντα τῷ σιδήρῳ πάλιν ἀποπάλλεσθαι καὶ ταῦτα μὲν εἶναι, δι' ὧν κρεμάννυσθαι συμβαίνει τὸν σίδηρον, τὰ δ' εἰς αὐτὸν εἰσδυόμενα διὰ τῶν || κενῶν πόρων διεξέρχεσθαι τάχιστα κάπειτα τῷ παρακειμένῳ σιδήρῳ προσκρούοντα μήτ' ἐκεῖνον διαδύναμι δύνασθαι, καίτοι τὸν γε πρῶτον διαδύναμι, παλινδρομοῦντα δ'

αὐθις ἐπὶ τὸν πρότερον ἐτέρας αὐθις ἐργάζεσθαι ταῖς προτέραις ὁμοίαις περιπλοκάς;

Ἐναργῶς γὰρ ἐνταῦθα τὸ ληρώδες τῆς αἰτίας ἐλέγχεται. γραφεῖα γοῦν οἶδα ποτε σιδηρᾶ πέντε κατὰ τὸ συνεχῆς ἀλλήλοις συναφθέντα, τοῦ πρώτου μὲν μόνου τῆς λίθου ψάυσαντος, ἐξ ἐκείνου δ' εἰς τάλλα τῆς δυνάμεως διαδοθείσης· καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν εἰπεῖν, ὡς, εἰ μὲν τῷ κάτω τοῦ γραφείου πέρατι προσάγοις ἕτερον, ἔχεται τε καὶ συνάπτεται καὶ κρέμαται τὸ προσενεχθέν· εἰ δ' ἄλλω τινὶ μέρει τῶν πλαγίων προσθείης, οὐ συνάπτεται. πάντη γὰρ ὁμοίως ἢ τῆς λίθου διαδίδοται δύναμις, εἰ μόνον ἄψαιτο κατὰ τι τοῦ πρώτου γραφείου. καὶ μέντοι κάκ τούτου πάλιν εἰς τὸ δεύτερον ὄλον ἢ δύναμις ἅμα νοήματι διαρρεῖ κάξ ἐκείνου πάλιν εἰς τὸ τρίτον ὄλον. εἰ δὴ νοήσαις σμικρὰν τινα λίθον ἡρακλείαν ἐν οἴκῳ τινὶ κρεμαμένην, εἴτ' ἐν κύκλῳ ψάουοντα πάμπολλα σιδήρια κάκεινων πάλιν ἐτέρα κάκεινων ἄλλα καὶ τοῦτ' ἄχρι πλείουτος, ἅπαντα || δῆπου πίμπλασθαι δεῖ τὰ σιδήρια τῶν ἀπορροούντων τῆς λίθου σωματίων. καὶ κινδυνεύει διαφορηθῆναι τὸ σμικρὸν ἐκεῖνο λιθίδιον εἰς τὰς ἀπορροὰς διαλυθέν. καίτοι, κἂν εἰ μὴδὲν παρακέοιτ' αὐτῷ σιδήριον, εἰς τὸν ἀέρα σκεδάννυται, μάλιστ' εἰ καὶ θερμὸς ὑπάρχοι.

49

Ναί, φησί, σμικρὰ γὰρ αὐτὰ χρῆ πάνυ νοεῖν, ὥστε τῶν ἐμφερομένων τῷ ἀέρι ψηγμάτων τούτων δὴ τῶν σμικροτάτων ἐκείνων ἕνια μυριοστὸν εἶναι μέρος. εἴτ' ἐξ οὕτω σμικρῶν τολμᾶτε λέγειν κρεμάννυσθαι βάρη τηλικαῦτα σιδήρου; εἰ γὰρ ἕκαστον αὐτῶν μυριοστὸν ἐστὶ μέρος τῶν ἐν τῷ ἀέρι φερομένων ψηγμάτων, πηλίκον χρῆ νοῆσαι τὸ πέρασ αὐτῶν τὸ ἀγκιστροειδές, ὧ περιπλέκεται πρὸς ἀλλήλα; πάντως γὰρ δῆπου τοῦτο σμικροτάτον ἐστὶν ὄλου τοῦ ψήγματος.

Εἴτα μικρὸν μικρῷ, κινούμενον κινουμένῳ περιπλακῆν οὐκ εὐθὺς ἀποπάλλεται. καὶ γὰρ δὴ καὶ ἄλλ' ἄττα πάντως αὐτοῖς, τὰ μὲν ἄνωθεν, τὰ δὲ κάτωθεν, καὶ τὰ μὲν ἔμπροσθεν, τὰ δ' ὀπισθεν, τὰ δ' ἐκ τῶν δεξιῶν, τὰ δ' ἐκ τῶν ἀριστερῶν || ἐκρηγνύμενα σεῖει τε καὶ βράττει καὶ μένειν οὐκ ἔξ. καὶ μέντοι καὶ πολλὰ χρῆ νοεῖν ἐξ ἀνάγκης ἕκαστον ἐκείνων τῶν σμικρῶν σωματίων ἔχειν ἀγκιστρῶδη πέρατα. δι' ἐνὸς μὲν γὰρ ἀλλήλοις συνάπτεται, δι' ἑτέρου δ' ἐνὸς τοῦ μὲν ὑπερκειμένου τῆς λίθου, τοῦ δ' ὑποκειμένου τῷ σιδήρῳ. εἰ γὰρ ἄνω μὲν ἐξαφθείη τῆς λίθου, κάτω δὲ τῷ σιδήρῳ μὴ συμπλακείη, πλεόν οὐδέν. ὥστε τοῦ μὲν ὑπερκειμένου τὸ ἄνω μέρος ἐκκρέμασθαι χρῆ τῆς λίθου, τοῦ δ' ὑποκειμένου τῷ κάτω πέρατι συνῆφθαι τὸν σιδήρον. ἐπεὶ δὲ κάκ τῶν πλαγίων ἀλλήλοις περιπλέκεται, πάντως που κἀνταῦθα ἔχει τὰ ἀγκιστρα. καὶ μέμνησός μοι πρὸ πάντων, ὅπως ὄντα σμικρὰ τὰς τοιαύτας καὶ τοσαύτας ἀποφύσεις ἔχει. καὶ τούτου μᾶλλον ἔτι, πῶς, ἵνα τὸ δεύτερον σιδήριον συναφθῆ τῷ πρώτῳ καὶ τῷ δευτέρῳ τὸ τρίτον κάκεινῳ τὸ τέταρτον, ἅμα μὲν διεξέρχεσθαι χρῆ τοὺς πόρους ταυτὶ τὰ σμικρὰ καὶ ληρώδη ψήγματα, ἅμα δ' ἀποπάλλεσθαι τοῦ μετ' αὐτὸ || τεταγμένου, καίτοι κατὰ πᾶν ὁμοίου τὴν φύσιν ὑπάρχοντος.

50

51

Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἢ τοιαύτη πάλιν ὑπόθεσις ἄτολμος, ἀλλ', εἰ χρῆ τάληθες εἰπεῖν, μακρῷ τῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἀναισχυνοτέρῳ, πέντε σιδηρίων ὁμοίων ἀλλήλοις ἐφεξῆς τεταγμένων διὰ τοῦ πρώτου διαδύμενα ῥαδίως τῆς λίθου τὰ μόρια κατὰ τὸ δεύτερον ἀποπάλλεσθαι καὶ μὴ διὰ τούτου κατὰ τὸν αὐτὸν τρόπον ἐτοιμῶς διεξέρχεσθαι. καὶ μὴν ἐκατέρως ἄτοπον. εἰ μὲν γὰρ ἀποπάλλεται, πῶς εἰς τὸ τρίτον ὠκέως διεξέρχεται; εἰ δ' οὐκ ἀποπάλλεται, πῶς κρεμάννυται τὸ δεύτερον ἐκ τοῦ πρώτου; τὴν γὰρ ἀπόπαλιν αὐτὸς ὑπέθετο δημιουργὸν τῆς ὀλκῆς.

Ἄλλ', ὅπερ ἔφην, εἰς ἀδολεσχίαν ἀναγκαῖον ἐμπίπτειν, ἐπειδὴν τις τοιούτοις ἀνδράσι διαλέγηται. σύντομον οὖν τινα καὶ κεφαλαίωδη λόγον εἰπὼν ἀπαλλάττεσθαι βούλομαι. τοῖς Ἀσκληπιάδου γράμμασιν εἴ τις ἐπιμελῶς ὁμιλήσειε, τὴν τε πρὸς τὰς ἀρχὰς ἀκολουθίαν τῶν τοιούτων δογμάτων ἀκριβῶς ἂν ἐκμάθοι καὶ τὴν πρὸς τὰ φαινόμενα μάχην. ὁ μὲν οὖν Ἐπίκουρος τὰ φαινόμενα φυλάττει βουλόμενος ἀσχημονεῖ || φιλοτιμούμενος ἐπιδεικνύειν αὐτὰ ταῖς ἀρχαῖς ὁμολογοῦντα· ὁ δ' Ἀσκληπιάδης τὸ μὲν ἀκόλουθον ταῖς ἀρχαῖς φυλάττει, τοῦ φαινομένου δ' οὐδὲν αὐτῷ μέλει. ὅστις οὖν βούλεται τὴν ἀτοπίαν ἐξελέγχειν τῶν ὑποθέσεων, εἰ μὲν πρὸς Ἀσκληπιάδην ὁ λόγος αὐτῷ γίγνωιτο, τῆς πρὸς τὸ φαινόμενον ὑπομιμησκέτω μάχης· εἰ δὲ πρὸς Ἐπίκουρον, τῆς πρὸς τὰς ἀρχὰς διαφωνίας. αἱ δ' ἄλλαι σχεδὸν αἰρέσεις αἱ τῶν ὁμοίων ἀρχῶν ἐχόμεναι τελέως ἀπέσβησαν, αὐταὶ δ' ἔτι μόναι διαρκοῦσιν οὐκ ἀγεννῶς. καίτοι τὰ μὲν Ἀσκληπιάδου Μηνόδοτος ὁ ἐμπειρικὸς ἀφύκτως ἐξελέγχει, τὴν τε πρὸς τὰ φαινόμενα μάχην ὑπομιμησκόων αὐτὸν καὶ τὴν πρὸς ἀλλήλα· τὰ δ' Ἐπικούρου πάλιν ὁ Ἀσκληπιάδης ἐχόμενος αἰεὶ τῆς ἀκολουθίας, ἧς ἐκεῖνος οὐ πάνυ τι φαίνεται φροντίζων.

52

Ἄλλ' οἱ νῦν ἄνθρωποι, πρὶν καὶ ταύτας ἐκμαθεῖν τὰς αἰρέσεις καὶ τὰς ἄλλας τὰς βελτίους κάπειτα χρόνῳ πολλῷ κρῖναί τε καὶ βασανίσαι τὸ καθ' ἐκάστην αὐτῶν ἀληθές τε καὶ ψεῦδος, οἱ μὲν ἰατροὺς ἑαυτούς, οἱ δὲ φιλοσόφους ὀνομάζουσι μὴδὲν εἰδότες. || οὐδὲν οὖν θαυμαστὸν ἐπίσης τοῖς ἀληθέσι τὰ ψευδῆ τετιμῆσθαι. ὅτῳ γὰρ ἂν ἕκαστος πρώτῳ περιτύχη διδασκάλῳ, τοιοῦτος ἐγένετο, μὴ περιμείνας μὴδὲν ἔτι παρ' ἄλλου μαθεῖν. ἔνιοι δ' αὐτῶν, εἰ καὶ πλείοσιν ἐντύχοιεν, ἀλλ' οὕτω γ' εἰσὶν ἀσύνητοι τε καὶ βραδεῖς τὴν διάνοιαν, ὥστε καὶ γενηρακότες οὐπω συνῖασιν ἀκολουθίαν λόγου. πάλαι δὲ τοὺς τοιούτους ἐπὶ τὰς βαναύσους ἀπέλυον τέχνας. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν ἔξ ὅ τι τελευτήσει θεὸς οἶδεν.

53

Ἥμεῖς δ' ἐπειδὴ, καίτοι φεύγοντες ἀντιλέγειν τοῖς ἐν αὐταῖς ταῖς ἀρχαῖς εὐθὺς ἐσφαλμένοις, ὅμως ἠναγκάσθημεν ὑπ' αὐτῆς τῶν πραγμάτων τῆς ἀκολουθίας εἰπεῖν

Pg 76

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 78

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 80

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 82

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

54 τυνα καὶ διαλεχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτούς, ἔτι καὶ τοῦτο προσθήσομεν τοῖς εἰρημένοις, ὡς οὐ μόνον τὰ καθάιροντα φάρμακα πέφυκεν ἐπιπαῖσθαι τὰς οἰκείας ποιότητος ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ τοὺς σκόλοπας ἀνάγοντα καὶ τὰς τῶν βελῶν ἀκίδας εἰς πολὺ βάθος σαρκὸς ἐμπεπαρμένας ἐνίοτε. καὶ μέντοι καὶ ὅσα τοὺς ἰοὺς τῶν θηρίων ἢ τοὺς ἐμπεφαρμαγμένους τοῖς βέλεσιν ἀνέλκει, καὶ ταῦτα τὴν αὐτὴν ταῖς ἡρακλείαις λήθεις ἐπὶ|| δεικνυταὶ δύναμιν. ἔγωγ' οὖν οἶδά ποτε καταπεπαρμένον ἐν ποδὶ νεανίσκου σκόλοπα τοῖς μὲν δακτύλοις ἔλκουσιν ἡμῖν βιαίως οὐκ ἀκολουθήσαντα, φαρμάκου δ' ἐπιτεθέντος ἀλύπως τε καὶ διὰ ταχέων ἀνελθόντα. καίτοι καὶ πρὸς τοῦτό τινες ἀντιλέγουσι φάσκοντες, ὅταν ἡ φλεγμονὴ λυθῆ τοῦ μέρους, αὐτόματον ἐξιέναι τὸν σκόλοπα πρὸς οὐδενὸς ἀνελκόμενον. ἀλλ' οὗτοί γε πρῶτον μὲν ἀγνωεῖν εἰκόασιν, ὡς ἄλλα μὲν ἐστὶ φλεγμονῆς, ἄλλα δὲ τῶν οὕτω καταπεπαρμένων ἐλκτικὰ φάρμακα· καίτοι γ' εἴπερ ἀφλεγμάντων γενομένων ἐξεκρίνετο τὰ παρὰ φύσιν, ὅσα φλεγμονῆς ἐστὶ λυτικά, ταῦτ' εὐθὺς ἂν ἦν κάκεινων ἐλκτικὰ.

Pg 84
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

55 Δεύτερον δ', ὃ καὶ μᾶλλον ἂν τις θαυμάσειεν, ὡς οὐ μόνον ἄλλα μὲν τοὺς σκόλοπας, ἄλλα δὲ τοὺς ἰοὺς ἐξάγει φάρμακα, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτῶν τῶν τοὺς ἰοὺς ἐλκόντων τὰ μὲν τὸν τῆς ἐχίδνης, τὰ δὲ τὸν τῆς τρυγόνος, τὰ δ' ἄλλου τινὸς ἐπιπαῖται καὶ σαφῶς ἔστιν ἰδεῖν τοῖς φαρμάκοις ἐπικειμένους αὐτούς. ἐνταῦθ' οὖν Ἐπίκουρον μὲν ἐπαινεῖν χρὴ τῆς πρὸς || τὸ φαινόμενον αἰδοῦς, μέμφεσθαι δὲ τὸν λόγον τῆς αἰτίας. ὃν γὰρ ἡμεῖς ἔλκοντες τοῖς δακτύλοις οὐκ ἀνηγάγομεν σκόλοπα, τοῦτον ὑπὸ τῶν σμικρῶν ἐκείνων ἀνέλκεσθαι ψηγμάτων, πῶς οὐ παντάπασιν ἄτοπον εἶναι χρὴ νομίζειν;

Ἄρ' οὖν ἤδη πεπεῖσμεθα τῶν ὄντων ἐκάστῳ δύναμιν τιν' ὑπάρχειν, ἢ τὴν οἰκείαν ἔλκει ποιότητα, τὸ μὲν μᾶλλον, τὸ δ' ἥττον;

Ἦ καὶ τὸ τῶν πυρῶν ἔτι παράδειγμα προχειρισόμεθα τῷ λόγῳ; φανήσονται γὰρ οἶμαι καὶ τῶν γεωργῶν αὐτῶν ἀμαθέστεροι περὶ τὴν φύσιν οἱ μηδὲν ὄλως ὑπὸ μηδενὸς ἔλκεσθαι συγχωροῦντες· ὡς ἔγωγε πρῶτον μὲν ἀκούσας τὸ γιγνόμενον ἐθαύμασα καὶ αὐτὸς ἠβουλήθην αὐτόπτης αὐτοῦ καταστῆναι. μετὰ ταῦτα δέ, ὡς καὶ τὰ τῆς πείρας ὠμολόγει, τὴν αἰτίαν σκοπούμενος ἐν παμπόλλῳ χρόνῳ κατὰ πάσας τὰς αἰρέσεις οὐδεμίαν ἄλλην εὐρεῖν οἶός τ' ἦν οὐδ' ἄχρι τοῦ πιθανοῦ προϊοῦσαν ἀλλὰ καταγελάστους τε καὶ σαφῶς ἐξελεγχόμενας τὰς ἄλλας ἀπάσας πλὴν τῆς τὴν ὀλκὴν πρεσβευούσης.

Pg 86
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

56 Ἔστι δὲ τὸ γιγνόμενον τοιούδε. κατακομίζοντες οἱ παρ' ἡμῖν γεωργοὶ τοὺς || ἐκ τῶν ἀγρῶν πυροὺς εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἐν ἀμάξαις τισίν, ὅταν ὑφελέσθαι βουληθῶσιν, ὥστε μὴ φωραθῆναι, κεράμι' ἄττα πληρώσαντες ὕδατος μέσοις αὐτοῖς ἐνιστᾶσιν. ἔλκοντες οὖν ἐκεῖνοι διὰ τοῦ κεραμίου τὸ ὑγρὸν εἰς αὐτοὺς ὄγκον μὲν καὶ βάρος προσκτῶνται, κατάδηλοι δ' οὐ πάνυ γίνονται τοῖς ὀρώσιν, εἰ μὴ τις προπεπυσμένος ἤδη περιεργότερον ἐπισκοποῖτο. καίτοι γ' εἰ βουληθείης ἐν ἡλίῳ καταθεῖναι πάνυ θερμῷ ταῦτον ἀγγεῖον, ἐλάχιστον παντελῶς εὐρήσεις τὸ δαπανώμενον ἐφ' ἐκάστης ἡμέρας. οὕτως ἄρα καὶ τῆς ἡλιακῆς θερμασίας τῆς σφοδρᾶς ἰσχυροτέραν οἱ πυροὶ δύναμιν ἔχουσιν ἔλκειν εἰς ἑαυτοὺς τὴν πλησιάζουσιν ὑγρότητα. λῆρος οὖν ἐνταῦθα μακρὸς ἢ πρὸς τὸ λεπτομερὲς φορὰ τοῦ περιέχοντος ἡμᾶς ἀέρος καὶ μάλισθ' ὅταν ἰκανῶς ἢ θερμὸς, πολὺ μὲν ὑπάρχοντος ἢ κατὰ τοὺς πυροὺς λεπτομερεστέρου, δεχομένου δ' οὐδὲ τὸ δέκατον μέρος τῆς εἰς ἐκείνους μεταλαμβανομένης ὑγρότητος.

Pg 88
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

XV

57 Ἐπεὶ δ' ἰκανῶς ἠδολεσχίσαμεν οὐχ ἐκόντες, ἀλλ', ὡς ἡ παροιμία φησί, μαινομένοις ἀναγκασθέντες συμ||μανῆναι, πάλιν ἐπὶ τὴν τῶν οὐρῶν ἐπανέλθωμεν διάκρισιν, ἐν ἣ τῶν μὲν Ἀσκληπιάδου λήρων ἐπιλαθώμεθα, μετὰ δὲ τῶν πεπεισμένων διηθεῖσθαι τὰ οὐρα διὰ τῶν νεφρῶν, τίς ὁ τρόπος τῆς ἐνεργείας ἐστίν, ἐπισκεψώμεθα· πάντως γὰρ ἢ ἐξ αὐτῶν ἐπὶ τοὺς νεφροὺς φέρεται τὰ οὐρα τοῦτο βέλτιον εἶναι νομίζοντα, καθάπερ ἡμεῖς, ὁπόταν εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν ἀπίωμεν· ἢ, εἰ τοῦτ' ἀδύνατον, ἕτερόν τι χρὴ τῆς φορᾶς αὐτῶν ἐξευρεῖν αἴτιον. τί δὴ τοῦτ' ἐστίν; εἰ γὰρ μὴ τοῖς νεφροῖς δώσομέν τινὰ δύναμιν ἐλκτικὴν τῆς τοιαύτης ποιότητος, ὡς Ἴπποκράτης ἐνόμιζεν, οὐδὲν ἕτερον ἐξευρήσομεν. ὅτι μὲν γὰρ ἦτοι τούτους ἔλκειν αὐτὸ προσῆκεν ἢ τὰς φλέβας πέμπειν, εἴπερ γε μὴ ἐξ ἑαυτοῦ φέρεται, παντὶ που δῆλον. ἀλλ' εἰ μὲν αἱ φλέβες περιστελλόμεναι προωθοῖεν, οὐκ ἐκεῖνο μόνον, ἀλλὰ σὺν αὐτῷ καὶ τὸ πᾶν αἷμα τὸ περιεχόμενον ἐν ἑαυταῖς εἰς τοὺς νεφροὺς ἐκθλίψουσιν· εἰ δὲ τοῦτ' ἀδύνατον, ὡς δεῖξομεν, λείπεται τοὺς νεφροὺς ἔλκειν.

58 Πῶς οὖν ἀδύνατον τοῦτο; τῶν νεφρῶν ἡ θέσις ἀντιβαίνει. οὐ γὰρ δὴ οὕτω γ' ὑπόκεινται τῇ κοίλῃ φλεβί || καθάπερ τοῖς ἐξ ἐγκεφάλου περιττώμασιν ἐν τε τῇ ρίνι καὶ κατὰ τὴν ὑπερώαν οἱ τοῖς ἠθμοῖς ὅμοιοι πόροι, ἀλλ' ἐκατέρωθεν αὐτῇ παράκεινται. καὶ μὴν, εἴπερ ὁμοίως τοῖς ἠθμοῖς ὅσον ἂν ἢ λεπτότερον καὶ τελέως ὀρρώδες, τοῦτο μὲν ἐτοιμῶς διαπέμπουσι, τὸ δὲ παχύτερον ἀποστέγουσιν, ἅπαν ἐπ' αὐτὸς ἰέναι χρὴ τὸ αἷμα τὸ περιεχόμενον ἐν τῇ κοίλῃ φλεβί, καθάπερ εἰς τοὺς τρυγητοὺς ὁ πᾶς οἶνος ἐμβάλλεται. καὶ μὲν γε καὶ τὸ τοῦ γάλακτος τοῦ τυρουμένου παράδειγμα σαφῶς ἂν, ὃ βούλομαι λέγειν, ἐνδείξαιτο. καὶ γὰρ καὶ τοῦτο πᾶν ἐμβληθὲν εἰς τοὺς ταλάρους οὐ πᾶν διηθεῖται, ἀλλ' ὅσον μὲν ἂν ἢ λεπτότερον τῆς εὐρύτητος τῶν πλοκάμων, εἰς τὸ κατάντες φέρεται καὶ τοῦτο μὲν ὀρρὸς ἐπονομάζεται· τὸ λοιπὸν δὲ τὸ παχὺ τὸ μέλλον ἔσεσθαι τυρός, ὡς ἂν οὐ παραδεχομένων αὐτὸ τῶν ἐν τοῖς ταλάροις πόρων, οὐ διεκπίπτει κάτω. καὶ τοῖνον,

Pg 90
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

εἵπερ οὕτω μέλλει διηθεῖσθαι τῶν νεφρῶν ὁ τοῦ αἵματος ὄρρος, ἅπαν ἐπ' αὐτοὺς ἦκειν χρῆ τὸ αἷμα καὶ μὴ τὸ μὲν ναί, τὸ δ' οὐ. ||

Πῶς οὖν ἔχει τὸ φαινόμενον ἐκ τῆς ἀνατομῆς;

Τὸ μὲν ἕτερον μέρος τῆς κοιλίας ἄνω πρὸς τὴν καρδίαν ἀναφέρεται, τὸ λοιπὸν δ' ἐπιβαίνει τῇ ῥάχει καθ' ὅλης αὐτῆς ἐκτεινόμενον ἄχρι τῶν σκελῶν, ὥστε τὸ μὲν ἕτερον οὐδ' ἐγγὺς ἀφικνεῖται τῶν νεφρῶν, τὸ λοιπὸν δὲ πλησιάζει μὲν, οὐ μὴν εἰς αὐτοὺς γε καταφύεται. ἐχρῆν δ', εἵπερ ἔμελλεν ὡς δι' ἡθμῶν αὐτῶν καθαρθῆσεσθαι τὸ αἷμα, πᾶν ἐμπίπτειν εἰς αὐτοὺς κάπειτα κάτω μὲν φέρεσθαι τὸ λεπτόν, ἴσχεσθαι δ' ἄνω τὸ παχύ. νυνὶ δ' οὐχ οὕτως ἔχει· πλάγιοι γὰρ ἐκατέρωθεν τῆς κοιλίας φλεβὸς οἱ νεφροὶ κεῖνται. οὐκ οὖν ὡς ἡθμοὶ διηθοῦσι, πεμπούσης μὲν ἐκείνης, αὐτοὶ δ' οὐδεμίαν εἰσφερόμενοι δύναμιν, ἀλλ' ἔλκουσι δηλονότι· τοῦτο γὰρ ἐτι λείπεται.

Πῶς οὖν ἔλκουσιν; εἰ μὲν, ὡς Ἐπίκουρος οἶεται τὰς ὀλκὰς ἀπάσας γίνεσθαι κατὰ τὰς τῶν ἀτόμων ἀποπάσεις τε καὶ περιπλοκάς, ἄμεινον ἦν ὄντως εἰπεῖν αὐτοὺς μὴδ' ἔλκειν ὅλως· πολὺ γὰρ ἂν οὕτω γε τῶν ἐπὶ τῆς ἡρακλείας λίθου μικρῶ πρόσθεν εἰρη||μένων ὁ λόγος ἐξεταζόμενος εὐρεθείη γελοιότερος· ἀλλ' ὡς Ἱπποκράτης ἠβούλετο. λεχθήσεται δὲ σαφέστερον ἐπὶ προήκοντι τῷ λόγῳ. νυνὶ γὰρ οὐ τοῦτο πρόκειται διδάσκειν, ἀλλ' ὡς οὐτ' ἄλλο τι δυνατὸν εἰπεῖν αἴτιον εἶναι τῆς τῶν οὖρων διακρίσεως πλὴν τῆς ὀλκῆς τῶν νεφρῶν οὐθ' οὕτω γίνεσθαι τὴν ὀλκὴν, ὡς οἱ μηδεμίαν οἰκείαν διδόντες τῇ φύσει δύναμιν οἴονται γίνεσθαι.

Τοῦτου γὰρ ὁμολογηθέντος, ὡς ἔστιν ὅλως τις ἐν τοῖς ὑπὸ φύσεως διοικουμένοις δύναμιν ἐλκτική, ληρώδης νομίζοιτ' ἂν ὁ περὶ ἀναδόσεως τροφῆς ἄλλο τι λέγειν ἐπιχειρῶν.

XVI

Ἐρασίστρατος δ' οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ἐτέραις μὲν τισὶ δόξαις εὐήθεσιν ἀντεῖπε διὰ μακρῶν, ὑπερέβη δὲ τελέως τὴν Ἱπποκράτους, οὐδ' ἄχρι τοῦ μνημονεῦσαι μόνον αὐτῆς, ὡς ἐν τοῖς περὶ καταπόσεως ἐποίησεν, ἀξιώσας. ἐν ἐκείνοις μὲν γὰρ ἄχρι τοσοῦτου φαίνεται μνημονεύων, ὡς τοῦνομ' εἰπεῖν τῆς ὀλκῆς μόνον ὡδέ πως γράφων·

“Ὀλκὴ μὲν οὖν τῆς κοιλίας οὐδεμία φαίνεται εἶναι”· περὶ δὲ τῆς || ἀναδόσεως τὸν λόγον ποιούμενος οὐδ' ἄχρι συλλαβῆς μιᾶς ἐμνημόνευσε τῆς Ἱπποκράτειου δόξης. καίτοι γ' ἐπήρκεσεν ἂν ἡμῖν, εἰ καὶ τοῦτ' ἔγραψε μόνον, ὡς Ἱπποκράτης εἰπὼν “Σάρκες ὀλκοὶ καὶ ἐκ κοιλίας καὶ ἔξωθεν” ψεύδεται· οὔτε γὰρ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας οὐτ' ἔξωθεν ἔλκειν δύνανται. εἰ δὲ καὶ ὅτι μήτρας αἰτιώμενος ἄρρωστον ἀχγένα κακῶς εἶπεν “Οὐ γὰρ δύναται αὐτέης ὁ στόμαχος εἰρύσαι τὴν γονὴν,” ἢ εἰ καὶ τι τοιοῦτον ἄλλο γράφειν ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ἠξίωσε, τότε ἂν καὶ ἡμεῖς πρὸς αὐτὸν ἀπολογοῦμενοι εἴπομεν·

Ὡ γενναῖε, μὴ ῥητορικῶς ἡμῶν κατάτρεχε χωρὶς ἀποδείξεως, ἀλλ' εἰπέ τινα κατηγορίαν τοῦ δόγματος, ἵν' ἡ πεισθῶμέν σοι ὡς καλῶς ἐξέλεγχοντι τὸν παλαιὸν λόγον ἢ μεταπίσωμεν ὡς ἀγνοοῦντα. καίτοι τί λέγω ῥητορικῶς; μὴ γὰρ, ἐπειδὴ τινες τῶν ῥητόρων, ἃ μάλιστα ἀδυνατοῦσι διαλύεσθαι, ταῦτα διαγελάσαντες οὐδ' ἐπιχειροῦσιν ἀντιλέγειν, ἤδη που τοῦτο καὶ ἡμεῖς ἠγώμεθ' εἶναι τὸ ῥητορικῶς· τὸ γὰρ διὰ λόγου πιθανοῦ ἐστὶ τὸ || ῥητορικῶς, τὸ δ' ἄνευ λόγου βωμολοχικόν, οὐ ῥητορικόν. οὐκ οὖν οὔτε ῥητορικῶς οὔτε διαλεκτικῶς ἀντεῖπεν ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ἐν τῷ περὶ τῆς καταπόσεως λόγῳ. τί γὰρ φησιν; “Ὀλκὴ μὲν οὖν τῆς κοιλίας οὐδεμία φαίνεται εἶναι.” πάλιν οὖν αὐτῷ παρ' ἡμῶν ἀντιμαρτυρῶν ὁ αὐτὸς λόγος ἀντιπαραβαλλέσθω· περιστολὴ μὲν οὖν τοῦ στομάχου οὐδεμία φαίνεται εἶναι. καὶ πῶς οὐ φαίνεται; τάχ' ἂν ἴσως εἴποι τις τῶν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ· τὸ γὰρ αἰεὶ τῶν ἄνωθεν αὐτοῦ μερῶν συστελλομένων διαστελλέσθαι τὰ κάτω πῶς οὐκ ἔστι τῆς περιστολῆς ἐνδεικτικόν; αὐθις οὖν ἡμεῖς, καὶ πῶς οὐ φαίνεται, φήσομεν, ἢ τῆς κοιλίας ὀλκῆ; τὸ γὰρ αἰεὶ τῶν κάτωθεν μερῶν τοῦ στομάχου διαστελλομένων συστελλέσθαι τὰ ἄνω πῶς οὐκ ἔστι τῆς ὀλκῆς ἐνδεικτικόν; εἰ δὲ σωφρονήσειέ ποτε καὶ γνοίῃ τὸ φαινόμενον τοῦτο μηδὲν μᾶλλον τῆς ἐτέρας τῶν δοξῶν ὑπάρχειν ἐνδεικτικόν ἀλλ' ἀμφοτέρων εἶναι κοινόν, οὕτως ἂν ἤδη δείξαιμεν αὐτῷ τὴν ὀρθὴν ὁδὸν τῆς τοῦ ἀληθοῦς εὐρέσεως.

Ἀλλὰ περὶ μὲν τῆς κοιλίας αὐθις. ἢ δὲ τῆς τροφῆς ἀνάδοσις οὐδὲν δεῖται || τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας ἅπαξ γε τῆς ἐλκτικῆς δυνάμεως ἐπὶ τῶν νεφρῶν ὁμολογημένης, ἦν καίτοι πάνυ σαφῶς ἀληθῆ γιννώσκων ὑπάρχειν ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος οὐτ' ἐμνημόνευσε οὐτ' ἀντεῖπεν οὐθ' ὅλως ἀπεφήνατο, τίμ' ἔχει δόξαν ὑπὲρ τῆς τῶν οὖρων διακρίσεως.

Ἦ διὰ τί προειπὼν εὐθὺς κατ' ἀρχὰς τῶν καθ' ὅλου λόγων, ὡς ὑπὲρ τῶν φυσικῶν ἐνεργειῶν ἐρεῖ, πρῶτον τινες τ' εἰσὶ καὶ πῶς γίνονται καὶ διὰ τίνων τόπων, ἐπὶ τῆς τῶν οὖρων διακρίσεως, ὅτι μὲν διὰ νεφρῶν, ἀπεφήνατο, τὸ δ' ὅπως γίνεσθαι παρέλιπε; μάτην οὖν ἡμᾶς καὶ περὶ τῆς πέψεως ἐδίδαξεν, ὅπως γίνεσθαι, καὶ περὶ τῆς τοῦ χολώδους περιττώματος διακρίσεως κατατρίβει. ἦρκει γὰρ εἰπεῖν κἀνταῦθα τὰ μόρια, δι' ὧν γίνεσθαι, τὸ δ' ὅπως παραλίπειν. ἀλλὰ περὶ μὲν ἐκείνων εἶχε λέγειν, οὐ μόνον δι' ὧν ὀργάνων ἀλλὰ καὶ καθ' ὅτινα γίνεσθαι τρόπον, ὥσπερ οἶμαι καὶ περὶ τῆς ἀναδόσεως· οὐ γὰρ ἤρκεσεν εἰπεῖν αὐτῷ μόνον, ὅτι διὰ φλεβῶν, ἀλλὰ καὶ πῶς

64 ἐπεξήλθεν, ὅτι τῇ πρὸς ἢ τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία· περὶ δὲ τῶν οὖρων τῆς διακρίσεως, ὅτι μὲν διὰ νεφρῶν γίνεταί, γράφει, τὸ δ' ὅπως οὐκέτι προστίθησιν. οὐδὲ γὰρ οἶμαί τῇ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία ἢν εἰπεῖν· οὕτω γὰρ ἂν οὐδεὶς ὑπ' ἰσχυρίας ἀπέθανεν οὐδέποτε μὴ δυναμένου πλείονος ἐπιρρυῆναί ποτε παρὰ τὸ κενούμενον· ἄλλης γὰρ αἰτίας μηδεμιάς προστεθείσης, ἀλλὰ μόνῃς τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας ποδηγούσης τὸ συνεχές, οὐκ ἐγγωρεῖ πλέον ἐπιρρυῆναί ποτε τοῦ κενουμένου. ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἄλλην τινὰ προσθεῖναι πιθανὴν αἰτίαν εἶχεν, ὡς ἐπὶ τῆς ἀναδόσεως τὴν ἐκθλιψιν τῆς γαστρούς. ἀλλ' αὕτη γ' ἐπὶ τοῦ κατὰ τὴν κοίλην αἵματος ἀπωλώλει τελέως, οὐ τῷ μήκει μόνον τῆς ἀποστάσεως ἐκλυθεῖσα, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῷ τὴν καρδίαν ὑπερκειμένην ἐξαπατάειν αὐτῆς σφοδρῶς καθ' ἐκάστην διαστολὴν οὐκ ὀλίγον αἶμα.

Pg 100
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

65 Μόνῃ δὴ τις ἔτι καὶ πάντων ἔρημος ἀπελείπετο τῶν σοφισμάτων ἐν τοῖς κάτω τῆς κοίλης ἢ πρὸς ἢ τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία, διὰ τε τοὺς ἐπὶ ταῖς ἰσχυρίαις ἀποθνήσκοντας ἀπολωλεκυῖα τὴν πιθανότητα καὶ διὰ τὴν τῶν νεφρῶν θέσιν οὐδὲν ἦττον, εἰ μὲν γὰρ ἅπαν ἐπ' αὐτοὺς ἐφέρετο τὸ αἶμα, δεόντως ἂν τις ἅπαν ἔφασκεν αὐτὸ καθαίρεσθαι. νυνὶ δέ, οὐ γὰρ ὅλον ἀλλὰ τοσοῦτον αὐτοῦ μέρος, ὅσον αἰ μέχρι νεφρῶν δέχονται φλέβες, ἐπ' αὐτοὺς ἔρχεται, μόνον ἐκεῖνο καθαρθήσεται. καὶ τὸ μὲν ὀρρώδες αὐτοῦ καὶ λεπτὸν οἶον δι' ἡμῶν τινων τῶν νεφρῶν διαδύσεται· τὸ δ' αἱματώδες τε καὶ παχὺ κατὰ τὰς φλέβας ὑπομένον ἐμποδῶν στήσεται τῷ κατόπιν ἐπιρρέοντι. παλινδρομεῖν οὖν αὐτὸ πρότερον ἐπὶ τὴν κοίλην ἀναγκαῖον καὶ κενὰς οὕτως ἐργάζεσθαι τὰς ἐπὶ τοὺς νεφροὺς ἰούσας φλέβας, αἱ δευτέρον οὐκέτι παρακομιούσιν ἐπ' αὐτοὺς ἀκάθαρτον αἶμα· κατειληφότος γὰρ αὐτὰς τοῦ προτέρου ἄροδος οὐδεμία λείπεται. τίς οὖν ἡμῖν ἢ δύναμις ἀπάξει πάλιν ὀπίσω τῶν νεφρῶν τὸ καθαρὸν αἶμα; τίς δὲ τοῦτο μὲν διαδεξαμένη κελεύσει πάλιν πρὸς τὸ κάτω μέρος ἵεναι τῆς κοίλης, ἐτέρω δ' ἄνωθεν ἐπιφερομένω προστάξει, πρὶν ἢ ἐπὶ τοὺς νεφροὺς ἀπελθεῖν, μὴ φέρεσθαι κάτω;

Pg 102
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

66 Ταῦτ' οὖν ἅπαντα συνιδῶν ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ἀποριῶν μεστὰ καὶ μίαν μόνην δόξαν εὐπορον εὐρῶν ἐν ἅπασιν τὴν τῆς ὀλκῆς, οὐτ' ἀπορεῖσθαι βουλόμενος οὔτε τὴν Ἱπποκράτους ἐθέλων λέγειν ἄμεινον ὑπέλαβε σιωπητέον εἶναι περὶ τοῦ τρόπου τῆς διακρίσεως.

67 Ἀλλ' εἰ κάκεῖνος ἐσίγησεν, ἡμεῖς οὐ σιωπήσομεν· ἴσμεν γάρ, ὡς οὐκ ἐνδέχεται παρελθόντα τὴν Ἱπποκράτειον δόξαν, εἴθ' ἕτερόν τι περὶ νεφρῶν ἐνεργείας εἰπόντα μὴ οὐ καταγέλαστον εἶναι παντάπασιν. διὰ τοῦτ' Ἐρασίστρατος μὲν ἐσιώπησεν, Ἀσκληπιάδης δ' ἐνεύσατο παραπλησίως οἰκέταις λάλοις μὲν τὰ πρόσθεν τοῦ βίου καὶ πολλὰ πολλάκις ἐγκλήματα διαλυσαμένοις ὑπὸ περιττῆς πανουργίας, ἐπ' αὐτοφώρω δὲ ποτε κατειλημμένοις, εἴτ' οὐδὲν ἐξευρίσκουσι σοφισμα κάπειτ' ἐνταῦθα τοῦ μὲν αἰδημονεστέρου σιωπῶντος, οἶον ἀποπληξία τινὶ κατειλημμένου, τοῦ δ' ἀναισχυντοτέρου κρύπτουτος μὲν ἔθ' ὑπὸ μάλης τὸ ζητούμενον, ἐξομνυμένου δὲ καὶ μηδ' ἐωρακέναί ποτε φάσκοντος. οὕτω γὰρ τοι καὶ ὁ Ἀσκληπιάδης ἢ ἐπιλειπόντων αὐτὸν τῶν τῆς πανουργίας σοφισμάτων καὶ μήτε τῆς πρὸς τὸ λεπτομερὲς φορᾶς ἐχούσης ἔτι χώραν ἐνταυθοῖ ληρεῖσθαι μήθ' ὡς ὑπὸ τῶν νεφρῶν γεννᾶται τοῦτ' ἐπερίττωμα, καθάπερ ὑπὸ τῶν ἐν ἡπατι πόρων ἢ χολῆ, δυνατὸν ὄν εἰπόντα μὴ οὐ μέγιστον ὀφλεῖν γέλωτα, ἐξόμνυται τε καὶ ψεύδεται φανερώς, οὐ διήκειν λέγων ἐπὶ τοὺς νεφροὺς τὸ οὔρον ἀλλ' ἀτμοειδῶς εὐθὺς ἐκ τῶν κατὰ τὴν κοίλην μερῶν εἰς τὴν κύστιν ἀθροίζεσθαι.

Pg 104
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Οὗτοι μὲν οὖν τοῖς ἐπ' αὐτοφώρω κατειλημμένοις οἰκέταις ὁμοίως ἐκπλαγέντες ὁ μὲν ἐσιώπησεν, ὁ δ' ἀναισχύντως ψεύδεται.

XVII

68 Τῶν δὲ νεωτέρων ὅσοι τοῖς τούτων ὀνόμασιν ἑαυτοὺς ἐσέμνυναν Ἐρασιστρατείου τε καὶ Ἀσκληπιαδείους ἐπονομάσαντες, ὁμοίως τοῖς ὑπὸ τοῦ βελτίστου Μενάνδρου κατὰ τὰς κωμωδίας εἰσαγομένοις οἰκέταις, Δάοις τέ τισιν καὶ Γέταις, οὐδὲν ἡγουμένοις σφίσι πεπράχθαι γενναῖον, εἰ μὴ τρὶς ἐξαπατήσειαν τὸν δεσπότην, οὕτω καὶ αὐτοὶ κατὰ πολλὴν σχολὴν ἀναισχυντα σοφίσματα συνέθεσαν, οἱ μὲν, ἵνα μηδ' ὄλως ἐξελεγχθεῖν ποτ' ἢ Ἀσκληπιάδης ψευδόμενος, οἱ δ', ἵνα κακῶς εἴπωσιν, ἃ καλῶς ἐσιώπησεν Ἐρασίστρατος.

Ἀλλὰ τῶν μὲν Ἀσκληπιαδείων ἄλις. οἱ δ' Ἐρασιστράτειοι λέγειν ἐπιχειροῦντες, ὅπως οἱ νεφροὶ διηθοῦσι τὸ οὔρον, ἅπαντα δρῶσιν τε καὶ πάσχουσι καὶ παντοῖοι γίνονται πιθανὸν ἐξευρεῖν τι ζητοῦντες αἴτιον ὀλκῆς μὴ δεόμενον.

Pg 106
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Οἱ μὲν δὴ πλησίον Ἐρασιστράτου τοῖς χρόνοις γενόμενοι τὰ μὲν ἄνω τῶν νεφρῶν μόρια καθαρὸν αἶμα λαμβάνειν φασί, τῷ δὲ βάρος ἔχειν τὸ ὑδατώδες περίττωμα βρίθειν τε καὶ ὑπορρεῖν κάτω· διηθούμενον δ' ἐνταῦθα κατὰ τοὺς νεφροὺς αὐτοὺς χρηστὸν οὕτω γενόμενον ἅπασιν τοῖς κάτω τῶν νεφρῶν ἐπιπέμπεσθαι τὸ αἶμα.

69 Καὶ μέχρι γέ τινος εὐδοκίμησεν ἡδε ἡ δόξα καὶ ἤκμασε καὶ ἀληθῆς ἐνομίσθη· χρόνω δ' ὕστερον καὶ αὐτοῖς τοῖς Ἐρασιστρατείοις ὑποπτος ἐφάνη καὶ τελευτώντες ἀπέστησαν αὐτῆς. αἰτεῖσθαι γὰρ ἐδόκουν δύο ταῦτα μήτε συγχωρούμενα πρὸς τινας ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἀποδειχθῆναι δυνάμενα, πρῶτον μὲν τὸ βάρος τῆς ὀρρώδους ὑγρότητος ἐν τῇ κοίλῃ ἢ φλεβὶ γεννώμενον, ὡσπερ οὐκ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ὑπάρχον, ὁπότ' ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας εἰς ἦπαρ ἀνεφέρετο. τί δὴ οὖν οὐκ εὐθὺς ἐν ἐκείνοις τοῖς χωρίοις ὑπέρρει κάτω; πῶς δ'

ἂν τῷ δόξειεν εὐλόγως εἰρησθαι συντελεῖν εἰς τὴν ἀνάδοσιν ἢ ὑδατώδης ὑγρότης, εἴπερ οὕτως ἐστὶ βραεῖα;

Δεύτερον δ' ἄτοπον, ὅτι κἂν κάτω συγχωρηθῆι φέρεσθαι πᾶσα καὶ μὴ κατ' ἄλλο χωρίον ἢ τὴν κοίλην φλέβα, τίνα τρόπον εἰς τοὺς νεφροὺς ἐμπεσεῖται, χαλεπὸν, μᾶλλον δ' ἀδύνατον εἰπεῖν, μῆτ' ἐν τοῖς κάτω μέρεσι κειμένων αὐτῶν τῆς φλεβὸς ἀλλ' ἐκ τῶν πλαγίων μῆτ' ἐμφυομένης εἰς αὐτοὺς τῆς κοίλης ἀλλ' ἀπόφυσίν τινα μόνον εἰς ἐκάτερον πεμπούσης, ὡσπερ καὶ εἰς τᾶλλα πάντα μόρια.

Pg 108

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

70 Τίς οὖν ἡ διαδεξαμένη ταύτην δόξα καταγνωσθεῖσαν; ἐμοὶ μὲν ἠλιθιωτέρα μακρῶ φαίνεται τῆς προτέρας. ἤκμασε δ' οὖν καὶ αὕτη ποτέ. φασὶ γάρ, εἰ κατὰ τῆς γῆς ἐκχυθεῖ μεμιγμένον ἔλαιον ὕδατι, διάφορον ἐκάτερον ὁδὸν βαδιεῖσθαι καὶ ῥυήσεσθαι τὸ μὲν τῆδε, τὸ δὲ τῆδε. θαυμαστὸν οὖν οὐδὲν εἶναί φασιν, εἰ τὸ μὲν ὑδατώδες ὑγρὸν εἰς τοὺς νεφροὺς ῥεῖ, τὸ δ' αἷμα διὰ τῆς κοίλης φέρεται κάτω. κατέγνωσται οὖν ἤδη καὶ ἡδε ἡ δόξα. διὰ τί γὰρ ἀπὸ τῆς κοίλης μυρίων ἐκπεφυκυῶν φλεβῶν αἷμα μὲν εἰς τὰς ἄλλας ἀπάσας, ἢ δ' ὀρρώδης ὑγρότης εἰς τὰς ἐπὶ τοὺς νεφροὺς φερομένας ἐκτρέπεται; τοῦτ' αὐτὸ τὸ ζητούμενον οὐκ εἰρήκασιν, ἀλλὰ τὸ γινόμενον εἰπόντες μόνον οἴονται τὴν αἰτίαν ἀποδεδωκέναι.

71 Πάλιν οὖν, τὸ τρίτον τῷ σωτήρι, τὴν χειρίστην ἀπασῶν δόξαν ἐξευρημένην νῦν ὑπὸ Λύκου τοῦ Μακεδόνα, εὐδοκιμοῦσαν δὲ διὰ τὸ καινὸν ἤδη λέγωμεν. ἀπεφήνατο γὰρ δὴ ὁ Λύκος οὗτος, ὡσπερ ἐξ ἀδύτου τινὸς χρησμὸν ἀποφθεγγόμενος, περίττωμα τῆς τῶν νεφρῶν θρέψεως εἶναι τὸ οὔρον. ὅτι μὲν οὖν αὐτὸ τὸ πινόμενον ἅπαν οὔρον γίνεσθαι, πλὴν εἴ τι μετὰ τῶν διαχωρημάτων ὑπῆλθεν ἢ εἰς ἰδρώτας ἀπεχώρησεν ἢ εἰς τὴν ἄδηλον διαπνοήν, ἐναργῶς ἐνδείκνυται τὸ πλῆθος τῶν καθ' ἐκάστην ἡμέραν οὔρουμένων. ἐν χειμῶνι δὲ μάλιστα μαθεῖν ἔστιν ἐπὶ τῶν ἀργούντων μὲν, κωθωνιζομένων δέ, καὶ μάλιστ' εἰ λεπτός ὁ οἶνος εἴη καὶ πόριμος. οὔρουσι || γὰρ οὔτοι διὰ ταχέων ὀλίγου δεῖν, ὅσονπερ καὶ πίνουσιν. ὅτι δὲ καὶ ὁ Ἑρασιστράτος οὕτως ἐγίνωσκεν, οἱ τὸ πρῶτον ἀνεγνωκότες αὐτοῦ σύγγραμμα τῶν καθόλου λόγων ἐπίστανται. ὥσθ' ὁ Λύκος οὗτ' ἀληθῆ φαίνεται λέγων οὗτ' Ἑρασιστράτεια, δῆλον δ' ὡς οὐδ' Ἀσκληπιάδεια, πολὺ δὲ μᾶλλον οὐδ' Ἱπποκράτεια. λευκῶ τοίνυν κατὰ τὴν παροιμίαν ἔοικε κόρακι μῆτ' αὐτοῖς τοῖς κόραξι ἀναμιχθῆναι δυναμένῳ διὰ τὴν χροάν μῆτε ταῖς περιστραῖς διὰ τὸ μέγεθος, ἀλλ' οὔτι που τούτου γ' ἔνεκα παροπτέος· ἴσως γὰρ τι λέγει θαυμαστὸν, ὃ μηδεὶς τῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἔγνω.

Pg 110

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

72 Τὸ μὲν οὖν ἅπαντα τὰ τρεφόμενα μόρια ποιεῖν τι περίττωμα συγχωρούμενον, τὸ δὲ τοὺς νεφροὺς μόνους, οὕτω σμικρὰ σώματα, χόας ὅλους τέτταρας ἢ καὶ πλείους ἴσχειν ἐνίοτε περιττώματος οὔθ' ὁμολογούμενον οὔτε λόγον ἔχον· τὸ γὰρ ἐκάστου τῶν μειζόνων σπλάγγνων περίττωμα πλείον ἀναγκαῖον ὑπάρχειν. οἷον αὐτίκα τὸ τοῦ πνεύμονος, εἴπερ ἀνάλογον τῷ μεγέθει τοῦ σπλάγγνου γίγνοιτο, πολλαπλα||σιον ἔσται δῆπου τοῦ κατὰ τοὺς νεφροὺς, ὡσθ' ὅλος μὲν ὁ θώραξ ἐμπλησθήσεται, πνιγήσεται δ' αὐτίκα τὸ ζῶον. ἀλλ' εἰ ἴσον φήσει τις γίνεσθαι τὸ καθ' ἐκάστου τῶν ἄλλων μορίων περίττωμα, διὰ ποίων κύστεων ἐκκρίνεται; εἰ γὰρ οἱ νεφροὶ τοῖς κωθωνιζομένοις τρεῖς ἢ τέτταρας ἐνίοτε χόας ποιοῦσι περιττώματος, ἐκάστου τῶν ἄλλων σπλάγγνων πολλῶ πλείους ἔσονται καὶ πίθου τινὸς οὕτω μεγίστου δεήσει τοῦ δεξομένου τὰ πάντων περιττώματα. καίτοι πολλάκις, ὅσον ἔπέ τις, ὀλίγου δεῖν οὔρησεν ἅπαν, ὡς ἂν ἐπὶ τοὺς νεφροὺς φερομένου τοῦ πόματος ἅπαντος.

Pg 112-114

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

73 Ἔοικεν οὖν ὁ τὸ τρίτον ἐξαπατῶν οὗτος οὐδὲν ἀνύειν ἀλλ' εὐθὺς γεγενῆσθαι κατάφωρος καὶ μένειν ἔτι τὸ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἄπορον Ἑρασιστράτῳ τε καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις ἅπασιν πλὴν Ἱπποκράτους. διατρίβω δ' ἐκὼν ἐν τῷ τόπῳ σαφῶς εἰδώς, ὅτι μηδὲν εἰπεῖν ἔχει μηδεὶς ἄλλος περὶ τῆς τῶν νεφρῶν ἐνεργείας, ἀλλ' ἀναγκαῖον ἢ τῶν μαγεῖρων ἀμαθεστέρους φαίνεσθαι μῆδ' ὅτι διηθεῖται δι' αὐτῶν τὸ οὔρον ὁμολογοῦντας ἢ || τοῦτο συγχωρήσαντας μηδὲν ἔτ' ἔχειν εἰπεῖν ἕτερον αἴτιον τῆς διακρίσεως πλὴν τῆς ὀλκῆς.

Ἀλλ' εἰ μὴ τῶν οὔρων ἡ φορὰ τῆ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία γίνεσθαι, δῆλον, ὡς οὐδ' ἢ τοῦ αἵματος οὐδ' ἢ τῆς χολῆς ἢ εἴπερ ἐκείνων καὶ τούτου· πάντα γὰρ ὡσαύτως ἀναγκαῖον ἐπιτελεῖσθαι καὶ κατ' αὐτὸν τὸν Ἑρασιστράτου.

Εἰρήσεται δ' ἐπὶ πλέον ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ μετὰ ταῦτα γράμματι.

B

Pg 114-116

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

I

74 Ὅτι μὲν οὖν ἀναγκαῖον ἔστιν οὐκ Ἑρασιστράτῳ μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις ἅπασιν, ὅσοι μέλλουσι περὶ διακρίσεως οὔρων ἐρεῖν τι χρηστὸν, ὁμολογήσαι δύναμιν τιν' ὑπάρχειν τοῖς νεφροῖς ἔλκουσαν εἰς ἑαυτοὺς ποιότητα τοιαύτην, οἷα ἐν τοῖς οὔροις ἐστὶ, διὰ τοῦ πρόσθεν ἐπιδέδεικται γράμματος, ἀναμιμνησκόντων ἅμ' αὐτῷ καὶ τοῦθ' ἡμῶν, ὡς οὐκ ἄλλως μὲν εἰς τὴν κύστιν φέρεται τὰ οὔρα διὰ τῶν νεφρῶν, ἄλλως δ' εἰς ἅπαντα τοῦ ζῶου τὰ μόρια τὸ αἷμα, κατ' ἄλλον δὲ τίνα τρόπον ἢ ξανθῆ χολῆ διακρίνεται. δειχθείσης γὰρ ἐναργῶς ἐφ' ἑνὸς || οὔτινοσούν ὄργάνου τῆς ἐλκτικῆς τε καὶ ἐπισπαστικῆς ὀνομαζομένης δυνάμεως οὐδὲν ἔτι χαλεπὸν ἐπὶ τὰ λοιπὰ

75

μεταφέρειν αὐτήν· οὐ γὰρ δὴ τοῖς μὲν νεφροῖς ἢ φύσις ἔδωκε τινα τοιαύτην δύναμιν, οὐχὶ δὲ γε καὶ τοῖς τὸ χολῶδες ὑγρὸν ἔλκουσιν ἀγγείοις οὐδὲ τούτοις μὲν, οὐκέτι δὲ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων μορίων ἐκάστω. καὶ μὴν εἰ τοῦτ' ἀληθές ἐστι, θαυμάζειν χρὴ τοῦ Ἐρασιστράτου ψευδεῖς οὕτω λόγους ὑπὲρ ἀναδόσεως τροφῆς εἰπόντος, ὡς μὴδ' Ἀσκληπιάδην λαθεῖν. καίτοι γ' οἶται παντὸς μᾶλλον ἀληθές ὑπάρχειν, ὡς, εἴπερ ἐκ τῶν φλεβῶν ἀπορρέοι τι, δυοῖν θάτερον ἢ κενὸς ἔσται τόπος ἀθρόως ἢ τὸ συνεχές ἐπιρρυήσεται τὴν βάσιν ἀναπληροῦν τοῦ κενουμένου. ἀλλ' ὃ γ' Ἀσκληπιάδης οὐ δυοῖν θάτερον φησιν, ἀλλὰ τριῶν ἔν τι χρῆναι λέγειν ἐπὶ τοῖς κενουμένοις ἀγγείοις ἔπεσθαι ἢ κενὸν ἀθρόως τόπον ἢ τὸ συνεχές ἀκολουθήσειν ἢ συσταλήσεσθαι τὸ ἀγγεῖον. ἐπὶ μὲν γὰρ τῶν καλάμων καὶ τῶν ἀυλίσκων τῶν εἰς τὸ ὕδωρ καθιεμένων ἀληθές εἰπεῖν, ὅτι κενουμένου τοῦ περιεχομένου κατὰ τὴν || εὐρυχωρίαν αὐτῶν ἀέρος ἢ κενὸς ἀθρόως ἔσται τόπος ἢ ἀκολουθήσει τὸ συνεχές· ἐπὶ δὲ τῶν φλεβῶν οὐκέτ' ἐγγωρεῖ, δυναμένου δὴ τοῦ χιτῶνος αὐτῶν εἰς ἑαυτὸν συνιζάνειν καὶ διὰ τοῦτο καταπίπτειν εἰς τὴν ἐντὸς εὐρυχωρίαν. οὕτω μὲν δὴ ψευδῆς ἢ περὶ τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας οὐκ ἀποδείξις μὰ Δί' εἴποιμ' ἂν ἀλλ' ὑπόθεσις Ἐρασιστράτειος.

76

Καθ' ἕτερον δ' αὐτὸν τρόπον, εἰ καὶ ἀληθῆς εἴη, περιττὴ, τῆς μὲν κοιλίας ἐνθλίβειν ταῖς φλεψὶ δυναμένης, ὡς αὐτὸς ὑπέθετο, τῶν φλεβῶν δ' αὐτὴν περιστέλλεσθαι τῷ ἐνυπάρχοντι καὶ προωθεῖν αὐτό. τά τε γὰρ ἄλλα καὶ πλήθος οὐκ ἂν ἐν τῷ σώματι γένοιτο, τῇ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία μόνη τῆς ἀναδόσεως ἐπιτελουμένης. εἰ μὲν οὖν ἢ τῆς γαστρὸς ἐνθλιψίς ἐκλύεται προϊούσα καὶ μέχρι παντὸς ἀδύνατός ἐστιν ἐξικνεῖσθαι καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἄλλης τινὸς δεῖ μηχανῆς εἰς τὴν πάντη φορὰν τοῦ αἵματος, ἀναγκαῖα μὲν ἢ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία προσεξεύρηται· πλήθος δ' ἐν οὐδενὶ τῶν μεθ' ἡμῶν ἔσται || μορίων, ἢ, εἴπερ ἄρα, περὶ τὴν καρδίαν τε καὶ τὸν πνεύμονα. μόνη γὰρ αὕτη τῶν μεθ' ἡμῶν εἰς τὴν δεξιάν αὐτῆς κοιλίαν ἔλκει τὴν τροφήν, εἴτα διὰ τῆς φλεβὸς τῆς ἀρτηριώδους ἐκπέμπει τῷ πνεύμονι· τῶν γὰρ ἄλλων οὐδὲν οὐδ' αὐτὸς ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ἐκ καρδίας βούλεται τρέφεσθαι διὰ τὴν τῶν ὑμένων ἐπίφυσιν. εἰ δὲ γ', ἵνα πλήθος γένηται, φυλάξομεν ἄχρι παντὸς τὴν ῥώμην τῆς κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν ἐνθλίψεως, οὐδὲν ἔτι δεόμεθα τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας, μάλιστα εἰ καὶ τὴν τῶν φλεβῶν συνυποθίμεθα περιστολήν, ὡς αὐτὸ καὶ τοῦτ' αὐτῷ πάλιν ἀρέσκει τῷ Ἐρασιστράτῳ.

77

II

Ἀναμνηστὴν οὖν αὐτὸς αὐτόν, κἂν μὴ βούληται, τῶν νεφρῶν καὶ λεκτέον, ὡς ἔλεγχος οὕτοι φανερώτατος ἀπάντων τῶν ἀποχωρούντων τῆς ὀλκῆς· οὐδεὶς γὰρ οὐδὲν οὕτ' εἶπε πιθανόν, ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐξευρεῖν εἶχε κατ' οὐδένα τρόπον, ὡς ἔμπροσθεν ἐδείκνυμεν, ἕτερον αἴτιον οὕρων διακρίσεως, ἀλλ' ἀναγκαῖον ἢ μαίνεσθαι δοκεῖν, εἰ φησάμεν ἀτμοειδίως εἰς τὴν κύστιν ἵεσθαι τὸ οὔρον ἢ ἀσχημονεῖν τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας μνημονεύοντας, ληρώδους μὲν οὔσης κάπὶ τοῦ αἵματος, ἀδυνάτου δὲ καὶ ἡλιθίου παντάπασιν ἐπὶ τῶν οὔρων.

78

Ἐν μὲν δὴ τοῦτο σφάλμα τῶν ἀποστάτων τῆς ὀλκῆς· ἕτερον δὲ τὸ περὶ τῆς κατὰ τὴν ξανθὴν χολὴν διακρίσεως. οὐδὲ γὰρ οὐδ' ἐκεῖ παραρρέοντος τοῦ αἵματος τὰ στόματα τῶν χοληδόχων ἀγγείων ἀκριβῶς διακριθήσεται τὸ χολῶδες περίττωμα. καὶ μὴ διακρινέσθω, φασιν, ἀλλὰ συναναφερέσθω τῷ αἵματι πάντη τοῦ σώματος. ἀλλ', ὡς σοφώτατοι, προνοητικὴν τοῦ ζώου καὶ τεχνικὴν αὐτὸς ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ὑπέθετο τὴν φύσιν. ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ χολῶδες ὑγρὸν ἄχρηστον εἶναι παντάπασιν τοῖς ζώοις ἔφασκεν. οὐ συμβαίνει δ' ἀλλήλοις ἄμφω ταῦτα. πῶς γὰρ ἂν ἔτι προνοεῖσθαι τοῦ ζώου δόξειεν ἐπιτρέπουσα συναναφερέσθαι τῷ αἵματι μοχθηρὸν οὕτω χυμόν;

Ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν σμικρά· τὸ δὲ μέγιστον καὶ σαφέστατον πάλιν ἐνταῦθ' ἀμάρτημα καὶ δὴ φράσω. εἴπερ γὰρ δι' οὐδὲν ἄλλ' ἢ ὅτι παχύτερον μὲν ἔστι τὸ αἶμα, λεπτότερα δ' ἢ || ξανθὴ χολὴ καὶ τὰ μὲν τῶν φλεβῶν εὐρύτερα στόματα, τὰ δὲ τῶν χοληδόχων ἀγγείων στενότερα, διὰ τοῦθ' ἢ μὲν χολὴ τοῖς στενωτέροις ἀγγείοις τε καὶ στόμασιν ἐναρμόττει, τὸ δ' αἶμα τοῖς εὐρύτεροις, δῆλον, ὡς καὶ τὸ ὕδατῶδες τοῦτο καὶ ὀρρώδες περίττωμα τοσοῦτω πρότερον εἰσρυσήσεται τοῖς χοληδόχοις ἀγγείοις, ὅσω λεπτότερον ἔστι τῆς χολῆς. πῶς οὖν οὐκ εἰσερεῖ; ὅτι παχύτερον ἔστι νῆ Δία τὸ οὔρον τῆς χολῆς· τοῦτο γὰρ ἐτόλμησέ τις εἰπεῖν τῶν καθ' ἡμᾶς Ἐρασιστρατείων ἀποστάς δηλονότι τῶν αἰσθήσεων, αἷς ἐπίστευσεν ἐπὶ τε τῆς χολῆς καὶ τοῦ αἵματος. εἴτε γὰρ ὅτι μᾶλλον ἢ χολὴ τοῦ αἵματος ῥεῖ, διὰ τοῦτο λεπτοτέραν αὐτὴν ἡμῖν ἔστι νομιστέον, εἴθ' ὅτι δι' ὀθόνης ἢ ῥάκους ἢ τινος ἡθμοῦ ῥᾶον διεξέρχεται καὶ ταύτης τὸ ὀρρώδες περίττωμα, κατὰ ταῦτα τὰ γνωρίσματα παχύτερα τῆς ὕδατῶδους ὑγρότητος καὶ αὕτη γενήσεται. πάλιν γὰρ οὐδ' ἐνταῦθα λόγος οὐδεὶς ἐστιν, ὃς ἀποδείξει λεπτοτέραν τὴν χολὴν τῶν ὀρρωδῶν περιττωμάτων.

79

Ἄλλ' ὅταν τις ἀναισχυντῆ περιπλέκων τε καὶ μήπω καταπεπτωκέναι συγχωρῶν, || ὅμοιος ἔσται τοῖς ἰδιώταις τῶν παλαιστῶν, οἳ καταβληθέντες ὑπὸ τῶν παλαιστρικῶν καὶ κατὰ τῆς γῆς ὑπτιοὶ κείμενοι τοσοῦτου δέουσι τὸ πτόμα γνωρίζειν, ὥστε καὶ κρατοῦσι τῶν ἀχένων αὐτοὺς τοὺς καταβαλόντας οὐκ ἐῶντες ἀπαλλάττεσθαι, κἂν τούτῳ νικᾶν ὑπολαμβάνουσι.

80

81 Λῆρος οὖν μακρὸς ἅπασα πόρων ὑπόθεσις εἰς φυσικὴν ἐνέργειαν. εἰ μὴ γὰρ δύναμις τις σύμφυτος ἐκάστῳ τῶν ὀργάνων ὑπὸ τῆς φύσεως εὐθὺς ἐξ ἀρχῆς δοθείη, διαρκεῖν οὐ δυνήσεται τὰ ζῶα, μὴ ὅτι τοσοῦτον ἀριθμὸν ἐτῶν ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἡμερῶν ὀλιγίστων· ἀνεπιτρόπευτα γὰρ ἔασαντες αὐτὰ καὶ τέχνης καὶ προνοίας ἔρημα μόνας ταῖς τῶν ὑλῶν οἰακίζόμενα ῥοπαῖς, οὐδαμοῦ δυνάμεως οὐδεμιᾶς τῆς μὲν ἐλκούσης τὸ προσῆκον ἑαυτῇ, τῆς δ' ἀπωθούσης τὸ ἀλλότριον, τῆς δ' ἀλλοιούσης τε καὶ προσφυοῦσης τὸ θρέψον, οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως οὐκ ἂν εἶημεν καταγέλαστοι περὶ τε τῶν φυσικῶν ἐνεργειῶν διαλεγόμενοι καὶ πολὺ μᾶλλον ἔτι περὶ τῶν ψυχικῶν καὶ || συμπάσης γε τῆς ζωῆς.

Οὐδὲ γὰρ ζῆν οὐδὲ διαμένειν οὐδενὶ τῶν ζῶων οὐδ' εἰς ἐλάχιστον χρόνον ἔσται δυνατόν, εἰ τοσαῦτα κεκτημένον ἐν ἑαυτῷ μόρια καὶ οὕτω διαφέροντα μῆθ' ἐλκτικῇ τῶν οἰκείων χρήσεται δυνάμει μῆτ' ἀποκριτικῇ τῶν ἀλλοτριῶν μῆτ' ἀλλοιωτικῇ τῶν θρεψόντων. καὶ μὴν εἰ ταῦτα ἔχοιμεν, οὐδὲν ἔτι πόρων μικρῶν ἢ μεγάλων ἐξ ὑποθέσεως ἀναποδείκτου λαμβανομένων εἰς οὐρου καὶ χολῆς διακρίσιν δεόμεθα καὶ τινος ἐπικαίρου θέσεως, ἐν ᾧ μόνῳ σωφρονεῖν ἔοικεν ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ἅπαντα καλῶς τεθῆναί τε καὶ διαπλασθῆναι τὰ μόρια τοῦ σώματος ὑπὸ τῆς φύσεως οἰόμενος.

82 Ἀλλ' εἰ παρακολουθήσειεν ἑαυτῷ φύσιν ὀνομάζοντι τεχνικὴν, εὐθὺς μὲν ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἅπαντα καλῶς διαπλάσασάν τε καὶ διαθεῖσαν τοῦ ζώου τὰ μόρια, μετὰ δὲ τὴν τοιαύτην ἐνέργειαν, ὡς οὐδὲν ἔλειπεν, ἔτι προαγαγούσαν εἰς φῶς αὐτὸ σύν τισι δυνάμεσιν, ὧν ἄνευ ζῆν οὐκ ἠδύνατο, καὶ μετὰ ταῦτα κατὰ βραχὺ προσαυξήσασαν ἄχρι τοῦ πρέποντος μεγέθους, οὐκ οἶδα πῶς ὑπομένει πόρων σμικρότησιν || ἢ μεγέθεσιν ἢ τισὶν ἄλλαις οὕτω ληρώδεσιν ὑποθέσεσι φυσικὰς ἐνεργείας ἐπιτρέπειν. ἢ γὰρ διαπλάττουσα τὰ μόρια φύσις ἐκείνη καὶ κατὰ βραχὺ προσαύξουσα πάντως δῆπου δι' ὅλων αὐτῶν ἐκτέταται· καὶ γὰρ ὅλα δι' ὅλων οὐκ ἔξωθεν μόνον αὐτὰ διαπλάττει τε καὶ τρέφει καὶ προσαύξει. Πραξιτέλης μὲν γὰρ ἢ Φειδίας ἢ τις ἄλλος ἀγαλματοποιὸς ἔξωθεν μόνον ἐκόσμηον τὰς ὕλας, καθὰ καὶ ψάυειν αὐτῶν ἠδύνατο, τὸ βάθος δ' ἀκόσμητον καὶ ἀργὸν καὶ ἄτεχνον καὶ ἀπρονόητον ἀπέλιπον, ὡς ἂν μὴ δυνάμενοι κατελθεῖν εἰς αὐτὸ καὶ καταδύνασθαι καὶ θιγεῖν ἀπάντων τῆς ὕλης τῶν μερῶν. ἢ φύσις δ' οὐχ οὕτως, ἀλλὰ τὸ μὲν ὅσπου μέρος ἅπαν ὅσπου ἀποτελεῖ, τὸ δὲ σαρκὸς σάρκα, τὸ δὲ πιμελῆς πιμελὴν καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἕκαστον· οὐδὲν γὰρ ἔστιν ἄψαστον αὐτῇ μέρος οὐδ' ἀνεξέργαστον οὐδ' ἀκόσμητον. ἀλλὰ τὸν μὲν κηρὸν ὁ Φειδίας οὐκ ἠδύνατο ποιεῖν ἐλέφαντα καὶ χρυσόν, ἀλλ' οὐδὲ τὸν χρυσὸν κηρὸν· ἕκαστον γὰρ αὐτῶν μένον, οἶον ἦν ἐξ ἀρχῆς, ἔξωθεν μόνον ἠμφιεσμένον εἶδος τι καὶ 83 σχῆμα τεχνικόν, ἀγαλμα τέλειον || γέγονεν. ἢ φύσις δ' οὐδεμιᾶς ἔτι φυλάττει τῶν ὑλῶν τὴν ἀρχαίαν ἰδέαν· αἷμα γὰρ ἂν ἦν οὕτως ἅπαντα τοῦ ζώου τὰ μόρια, τὸ παρὰ τῆς κυούσης ἐπιρρέον τῷ σπέρματι, δίκην κηροῦ τινος ὕλη μία καὶ μονοειδῆς ὑποβεβλημένη τῷ τεχνίτῃ. γίνεταί δ' ἐξ αὐτῆς οὐδὲν τῶν τοῦ ζώου μορίων οὐτ' ἐρυθρὸν οὕτως οὐθ' ὑγρὸν. ὅσπου γὰρ καὶ ἀρτηρία καὶ φλέψ καὶ νεῦρον καὶ χόνδρος καὶ πιμελὴ καὶ ἀδὴν καὶ ὕμην καὶ μυελὸς ἀναιμα μὲν, ἐξ αἵματος δὲ γέγονε.

84 Τίνος ἀλλοιώσαντος καὶ τίνος πήξαντος καὶ τίνος διαπλάσαντος ἐδεόμην ἂν μοι τὸν Ἐρασίστρατον αὐτὸν ἀποκρίνασθαι. πάντως γὰρ ἂν εἶπεν ἤτοι τὴν φύσιν ἢ τὸ σπέρμα, ταῦτον μὲν λέγων καθ' ἑκάτερον, διαφόροις δ' ἐπινοίαις ἐρμηνεύων· ὃ γὰρ ἦν πρότερον σπέρμα, τοῦθ', ὅταν ἄρξῃται φύειν τε καὶ διαπλάττειν τὸ ζῶον, φύσις τις γίνεταί. καθάπερ γὰρ ὁ Φειδίας εἶχε μὲν τὰς δυνάμεις τῆς τέχνης καὶ πρὶν ψάυειν τῆς ὕλης, ἐνήργει δ' αὐταῖς περὶ τὴν ὕλην—ἅπασα γὰρ δύναμις ἀργεῖ ἀποροῦσα τῆς οἰκείας ὕλης—, οὕτω καὶ τὸ σπέρμα τὰς μὲν || δυνάμεις οἰκοθεν ἐκέκτητο, τὰς δ' ἐνεργείας οὐκ ἐκ τῆς ὕλης ἔλαβεν, ἀλλὰ περὶ τὴν ὕλην ἐπεδειξάτο.

Καὶ μὴν εἰ πολλῶ μὲν ἐπικλύζοιτο τῷ αἵματι τὸ σπέρμα, διαφθείροιτ' ἂν· εἰ δ' ὅλως ἀποροῖη παντάπασιν ἀργοῦν, οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο φύσις. ἴν' οὖν μήτε φθείρηται καὶ γίγνηται φύσις ἀντὶ σπέρματος, ὀλίγον ἐπιρρεῖν ἀναγκαῖον αὐτῷ τοῦ αἵματος, μᾶλλον δ' οὐκ ὀλίγον λέγειν χρή, ἀλλὰ σύμμετρον τῷ πλήθει τοῦ σπέρματος. τίς οὖν ὁ μετρῶν αὐτοῦ τὸ ποσὸν τῆς ἐπιρροῆς; τίς ὁ κωλύων ἵεναι πλέον; τίς ὁ προτρέπων, ἴν' ἐνδεέστερον μὴ ἴη; τίνα ζητήσομεν ἐνταῦθα τρίτον ἐπιστάτην τοῦ ζώου τῆς γενέσεως, ὅς χορηγήσει τῷ σπέρματι τὸ σύμμετρον αἷμα; τί ἂν εἶπεν Ἐρασίστρατος, εἰ ζῶν ταῦτ' ἠρωτήθη; τὸ σπέρμα αὐτὸ δηλονότι· τοῦτο γὰρ ἔστιν ὁ τεχνίτης ὁ ἀναλογῶν τῷ Φειδίᾳ, τὸ δ' αἷμα τῷ κηρῷ προσέοικεν.

85 Οὐκ οὖν πρέπει τὸν κηρὸν αὐτὸν ἑαυτῷ τὸ μέτρον ἐξευρίσκειν, ἀλλὰ τὸν Φεΐδιαν. ἔλξει δὲ τοσοῦτον αἷματος ὁ τεχνίτης εἰς ἑαυτόν, ὅποσος δεῖται. ἀλλ' ἐν||ταῦθα χρὴ προσέχειν ἤδη τὸν νοῦν καὶ σκοπεῖν, μή πως λάθωμεν τῷ σπέρματι λογισμὸν τινα καὶ νοῦν χαρισάμενον· οὕτω γὰρ ἂν οὔτε σπέρμα ποιήσαιμεν οὔτε φύσιν ἀλλ' ἤδη ζῶον αὐτό. καὶ μὴν εἰ φυλάξομεν ἀμφοτέρα, τὴν θ' ὀλκήν τοῦ σύμμετρον καὶ τὸ χωρὶς λογισμοῦ, δύναμιν τινα, καθάπερ ἢ λίθος ἐλκτικὴν εἶχε τοῦ σιδήρου, καὶ τῷ σπέρματι φήσομεν ὑπάρχειν αἵματος ἐπισπαστικὴν. ἠναγκάσθημεν οὖν πάλιν κἀνταῦθα, καθάπερ ἤδη πολλακίς ἔμπροσθεν, ἐλκτικὴν τινα δύναμιν ὁμολογήσαι κατὰ τὸ σπέρμα.

Τί δ' ἦν τὸ σπέρμα; ἢ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ζώου δηλονότι ἢ δραστικὴ· ἢ γὰρ ὕλικὴ τὸ καταμήνιον ἔστιν. εἴτ' αὐτῆς τῆς ἀρχῆς πρώτη ταῦτη τῇ δυνάμει χρωμένης, ἵνα γένηται τῶν ὑπ' αὐτῆς τι δεδημιουργημένων, ἄμοιρον εἶναι τῆς οἰκείας δυνάμεως οὐκ ἐνδέχεται. πῶς οὖν Ἐρασίστρατος αὐτὴν οὐκ οἶδεν, εἰ δὲ πρώτη μὲν αὐτῆ τοῦ σπέρματος ἐνέργεια τὸ σύμμετρον αἷματος ἐπισπᾶσθαι πρὸς ἑαυτό; σύμμετρον δ' ἂν εἴη τὸ λεπτόν οὕτω

Pg 128
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 130
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 132
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 134
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

86 καὶ ἀτμῶδες, ὥστ' εὐθὺς εἰς πᾶν μόνιον ἐλκόμενον τοῦ σπέρματος δροσοειδῶς
μηδαμοῦ τὴν ἥ εἰ αὐτοῦ παρεμφαίνετον ἰδέαν. οὕτω γὰρ αὐτοῦ καὶ κρατῆσει ῥαδίως τὸ
σπέρμα καὶ ταχέως ἐξομοιώσει καὶ τροφήν εἰ αὐτῷ ποιήσεται κάπειτ' οἶμα δευτέρου
ἐπιπάσεται καὶ τρίτον, ὡς ὄγκον εἰ αὐτῷ καὶ πλῆθος ἀξιόλογον ἐργάσασθαι
τραφέντι. καὶ μὴν ἤδη καὶ ἡ ἀλλοιωτικὴ δύναμις ἐξεύρηται μὴδ' αὐτῇ πρὸς
Ἐρασιστράτου γεγραμμένη. τρίτη δ' ἂν ἡ διαπλαστικὴ φανείη, καθ' ἣν πρῶτον μὲν
οἶον ἐπίπαγον τινα λεπτόν ὑμένα περιτίθησιν εἰ αὐτῷ τὸ σπέρμα, τὸν ὑφ'
Ἴπποκράτους ἐπὶ τῆς ἐκταίας γονῆς, ἣν ἐκπεσεῖν ἔλεγε τῆς μουσουργοῦ, τῷ τῶν ὠῶν
εἰκασθέντα χιτῶνι· μετὰ δὲ τούτου ἤδη καὶ τάλλ', ὅσα πρὸς ἐκείνου λέγεται διὰ τοῦ
περὶ φύσιος παιδίου συγγράμματος.

87 Ἄλλ' εἰ τῶν διαπλασθέντων ἕκαστον οὕτω μείνει σμικρόν, ὡς ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐγένετο, τί
ἂν εἶη πλέον; ἀξάνεσθαι τοῖνον αὐτὰ χρῆ. πῶς οὖν ἀξήθησεται; πάντη
διατεινόμενα θ' ἅμα καὶ τρεφόμενα. καὶ μοι τῶν ἔμπροσθεν εἰρημένων ἐπὶ τῆς
κύστεως, ἣν οἱ παῖδες ἐμφυσῶντες ἔτριβον, ἀναμνησθεῖς μαθήση μᾶλλον ἢ κακ τῶν
νῦν ῥηθησομένων.

Ἐννόησον γὰρ δὴ τὴν καρδίαν οὕτω μὲν μικρὰν εἶναι κατ' ἀρχάς, ὡς κέγχρου μὴδὲν
διαφέρειν ἢ, εἰ βούλει, κυάμου, καὶ ζήτησον, ὅπως ἂν ἄλλως αὕτη γένοιτο μεγάλη
χωρὶς τοῦ πάντη διατεινόμενης τρέφουσιν δι' ὅλης εἰ αὐτῆς, ὡς ὀλίγω πρόσθεν
ἐδείκνυτο τὸ σπέρμα τρεφόμενον. ἀλλ' οὐδὲ τοῦτ' Ἐρασιστράτος οἶδεν ὅ τὴν τέχνην
τῆς φύσεως ὑμῶν, ἀλλ' οὕτως ἀξάνεσθαι τὰ ζῶα νομίζει καθάπερ τινα κρησέραν ἢ
σειράν ἢ σάκκον ἢ τάλαρρον, ὧν ἕκαστῳ κατὰ τὸ πέρασ ἐπιπλεκομένων ὁμοίω
ἐτέρων τοῖς ἐξ ἀρχῆς αὐτὰ συντιθεῖσιν ἢ πρόσθεσις γίνεται.

88 Ἀλλὰ τοῦτο γ' οὐκ ἀξήσις ἐστὶν ἀλλὰ γένεσις, ὧ σοφώτατε· γίνεται γὰρ ὁ θύλακος
ἔτι καὶ ὁ σάκκος καὶ θοιμάτιον καὶ ἡ οἰκία καὶ τὸ πλοῖον καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἕκαστον,
ὅταν μὴδέπω τὸ προσῆκον εἶδος, οὗ χάριν ὑπὸ τοῦ τεχνίτου δημιουργεῖται,
συμπεπληρωμένον ἢ. πότ' οὖν ἀξάνεται; ὅταν ἤδη τέλειος ὦν ὁ τάλαρρος, ὡς ἔχει
πυθμένα τέ τινα καὶ στόμα καὶ οἶον γαστέρα καὶ τὰ τούτων μεταξὺ, μείζων ἅπασι
τούτοις γένηται. καὶ πῶς ἢ ἔσται τοῦτο; φήσει τις. πῶς δ' ἄλλως ἢ εἰ ζῶον ἐξαίφνης
ἢ φυτὸν ὁ τάλαρρος ἡμῖν γένοιτο; μόνων γὰρ τῶν ζώντων ἢ ἀξήσις. σὺ δ' ἴσως οἶει
τὴν οἰκίαν οἰκοδομουμένην ἀξάνεσθαι καὶ τὸν τάλαρρον πλεκόμενον καὶ θοιμάτιον
ὑφαινόμενον. ἀλλ' οὐχ ὧδ' ἔχει· τοῦ μὲν γὰρ ἤδη συμπεπληρωμένου κατὰ τὸ εἶδος ἢ
ἀξήσις, τοῦ δ' ἔτι γιγνομένου ἢ εἰς τὸ εἶδος ὁδὸς οὐκ ἀξήσις ἀλλὰ γένεσις
ὀνομάζεται· ἀξάνεται μὲν γὰρ τὸ ὄν, γίνεται δὲ τὸ οὐκ ὄν.

IV

89 Καὶ ταῦτ' Ἐρασιστράτος οὐκ οἶδεν, ὃν οὐδὲν λαυθάνει, εἴπερ ὅλως ἀληθεύουσιν οἱ
ἀπ' αὐτοῦ φάσκοντες ὠμιληκῆναι τοῖς ἐκ τοῦ περιπάτου φιλοσόφοις αὐτόν. ἄχρι μὲν
οὖν τοῦ τὴν φύσιν ὑμνεῖν ὡς τεχνικὴν κἀγὼ γνωρίζω τὰ τοῦ περιπάτου δόγματα,
τῶν δ' ἄλλων οὐδὲν οὐδ' ἐγγύς. εἰ γὰρ τις ὀμιλήσειε τοῖς Ἀριστοτέλους καὶ
Θεοφράστου γράμμασι, τῆς Ἴπποκράτους ἂν αὐτὰ δόξειε φυσιολογίας ὑπομνήματα
συγκεῖσθαι, τὸ θερμὸν καὶ τὸ ψυχρὸν ἢ καὶ τὸ ξηρὸν καὶ τὸ ὑγρὸν εἰς ἄλληλα
δρῶντα καὶ πάσχοντα καὶ τούτων αὐτῶν δραστηκώτατον μὲν τὸ θερμὸν, δευτέρου δὲ
τῆς δυνάμει τὸ ψυχρὸν Ἴπποκράτους ταῦτα σύμπαντα πρῶτου, δευτέρου δ'
Ἀριστοτέλους εἰπόντος. τρέφουσιν δὲ δι' ὄλων αὐτῶν τὰ τρεφόμενα καὶ κεράνυσθαι
δι' ὄλων τὰ κερανούμενα καὶ ἀλλοιοῦσθαι δι' ὄλων τὰ ἀλλοιούμενα, καὶ ταῦθ'
Ἴπποκράτειά θ' ἅμα καὶ Ἀριστοτέλεια. καὶ τὴν πέψιν ἀλλοίωσιν τιν' ὑπάρχειν καὶ
μεταβολὴν τοῦ τρέφοντος εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν τοῦ τρεφόμενου ποιότητα, τὴν δ'
ἐξαίματῶσιν ἀλλοίωσιν εἶναι καὶ τὴν θρέψιν ὡσαύτως καὶ τὴν ἀξήσιν ἐκ τῆς πάντη
διατάσεως καὶ θρέψεως γίνεσθαι, τὴν δ' ἀλλοίωσιν ὑπὸ τοῦ θερμοῦ μάλιστα
συντελεῖσθαι καὶ διὰ τοῦτο καὶ τὴν πέψιν καὶ τὴν θρέψιν καὶ τὴν τῶν χυμῶν
ἀπάντων γένεσιν, ἣδη δὲ καὶ τοῖς περιττώμασι τὰς ποιότητας ὑπὸ τῆς ἐμφύτου
θερμασίας ἐγγίγνεσθαι, ταῦτα σύμπαντα καὶ πρὸς τούτοις ἕτερα πολλὰ τὰ τε τῶν
90 προειρημένων δυνάμεων καὶ τὰ ἢ τῶν νοσημάτων τῆς γενέσεως καὶ τὰ τῶν ἰαμάτων
τῆς εὐρέσεως Ἴπποκράτης μὲν πρῶτος ἀπάντων ὧν ἴσμεν ὀρθῶς εἶπεν, Ἀριστοτέλης
δὲ δευτέρως ὀρθῶς ἐξηγήσατο. καὶ μὴν εἰ ταῦτα σύμπαντα τοῖς ἐκ τοῦ περιπάτου
δοκεῖ, καθάπερ οὖν δοκεῖ, μὴδὲν δ' αὐτῶν ἀρέσκει τῷ Ἐρασιστράτῳ, τί ποτε
βούλεται τοῖς Ἐρασιστρατεῖσι ἢ πρὸς τοὺς φιλοσόφους ἐκείνους τοῦ τῆς αἰρέσεως
αὐτῶν ἡγεμόνος ὀμιλία; θαυμάζουσι μὲν γὰρ αὐτὸν ὡς θεὸν καὶ πάντ' ἀληθεύειν
νομίζουσιν. εἰ δ' οὕτως ἔχει ταῦτα, πάμπλου δήπου τῆς ἀληθείας ἐσφάλαται χρῆ
νομίζειν τοὺς ἐκ τοῦ περιπάτου φιλοσόφους, οἷς μὴδὲν ὧν Ἐρασιστράτος
ὑπελάμβανεν ἀρέσκει. καὶ μὴν ὡσπερ τιν' εὐγένειαν αὐτῷ τῆς φυσιολογίας τὴν πρὸς
τοὺς ἀνδρας ἐκείνους συνουσίαν ἐκπορίζουσι.

91 Πάλιν οὖν ἀναστρέψωμεν τὸν λόγον ἕτερος ἢ ὡς ὀλίγω πρόσθεν ἐτύχομεν εἰπόντες.
εἴπερ γὰρ οἱ ἐκ τοῦ περιπάτου καλῶς ἐφυσιολόγησαν, οὐδὲν ἂν εἶη ληρωδέστερον
Ἐρασιστράτου καὶ δίδωμι τοῖς Ἐρασιστρατεῖσι αὐτοῖς τὴν αἴρεσιν· ἢ γὰρ τὸν
πρότερον λόγον ἢ τοῦτον ἢ προσήσονται. λέγει δ' ὁ μὲν πρότερος οὐδὲν ὀρθῶς
ἐγνωκῆναι περὶ φύσεως τοὺς περιπατητικούς, ὁ δὲ δευτέρως Ἐρασιστράτου. ἐμὸν μὲν
οὖν ὑπομῆσαι τῶν δογμάτων τὴν μάχην, ἐκείνων δ' ἢ αἴρεσις.

Ἄλλ' οὐκ ἂν ἀποσταῖεν τοῦ θαυμάζειν Ἐρασιστράτου· οὐκοῦν σιωπάτωσαν περὶ τῶν
ἐκ τοῦ περιπάτου φιλοσόφων. παμπόλλων γὰρ ὄντων δογμάτων φυσικῶν περὶ τε

Pg 136
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 138
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 140
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 142
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

γένεσιν καὶ φθορὰν τῶν ζώων καὶ ὑγίειαν καὶ νόσους καὶ τὰς θεραπείας αὐτῶν ἐν μόνον εὐρεθήσεται ταῦτόν Ἑρασιστράτῳ κάκεινοις τοῖς ἀνδράσι, τό τινας ἔνεκα πάντα ποιεῖν τὴν φύσιν καὶ μάτην μηδέν.

92 Ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτὸ τοῦτο μέχρι λόγου κοινόν, ἔργῳ δὲ μυριάκις Ἑρασίστρατος αὐτὸ διαφθεῖρει· μάτην μὲν γὰρ ὁ σπλὴν ἐγένετο, μάτην δὲ τὸ ἐπίπλοον, μάτην δ' αἱ εἰς τοὺς νεφροὺς ἀρτηρίαι καταφυόμεναι, σχεδὸν ἀπασῶν τῶν ἀπὸ τῆς μεγάλης ἀρτηρίας ἀποβλαστανοῦσάν οὖσαι μέγισται, μάτην δ' ἄλλα μυρία κατὰ γε τὸν Ἑρασιστράτειον λόγον· ἅπερ εἰ μὲν οὐδ' ὄλως γινώσκει, βραχεῖ μαγείρου σοφώτερός ἐστιν ἐν ταῖς ἀνατομαῖς, εἰ δ' εἰδῶς οὐ λέγει τὴν χρεῖαν αὐτῶν, οἶεται || δηλονότι παραπλησίως τῷ σπληνὶ μάτην αὐτὰ γεγονέναι. καίτοι τί ταῦτ' ἐπεξέρχομαι τῆς περὶ χρεῖας μορίων πραγματείας ὄντα μελλούσης ἡμῖν ἰδίᾳ περαίνεσθαι;

Πάλιν οὖν ἀναλάβωμεν τὸν αὐτὸν λόγον εἰπόντες τέ τι βραχὺ πρὸς τοὺς Ἑρασιστρατεῖους ἔτι τῶν ἐφεξῆς ἐχώμεθα. δοκοῦσι γὰρ μοι μηδὲν ἀνεγνωκέναι τῶν Ἀριστοτέλους οὗτοι συγγραμμάτων, ἀλλ' ἄλλων ἀκούοντες, ὡς δεινὸς ἦν περὶ φύσιν ὁ ἄνθρωπος καὶ ὡς οἱ ἀπὸ τῆς στοᾶς κατ' ἴχνη τῆς ἐκείνου φυσιολογίας βαδίζουσιν, εἶθ' εὐρόντες ἐν τι τῶν περιφερομένων δογμάτων κοινὸν αὐτῷ πρὸς Ἑρασίστρατον ἀναπλάσαι τινα συνουσίαν αὐτοῦ πρὸς ἐκείνους τοὺς ἀνδρας. ἀλλ' ὅτι μὲν τῆς Ἀριστοτέλους φυσιολογίας οὐδὲν Ἑρασιστράτῳ μέτεστιν, ὁ κατάλογος τῶν προειρημένων ἐνδείκνυται δογμάτων, ἃ πρώτου μὲν Ἴπποκράτους ἦν, δευτέρου δ' Ἀριστοτέλους, τρίτων δὲ τῶν Στωϊκῶν, ἐνὸς μόνου μετατιθεμένου τοῦ τὰς ποιότητας εἶναι σώματα.

93 Τάχα δ' ἂν τῆς λογικῆς ἔνεκα θεωρίας ὠμιληκέναι φαῖεν τὸν Ἑρασίστρατον τοῖς ἐκ τοῦ περιπάτου φιλοσόφοις, οὐκ εἰδότες, ὡς ἐκεῖνοι μὲν ψευ||δεῖς καὶ ἀπεράντους οὐκ ἔγραψαν λόγους, τὰ δ' Ἑρασιστράτεια βιβλία παμπόλλους ἔχει τοὺς τοιούτους.

Τάχ' ἂν οὖν ἤδη τις θαυμάζοι καὶ διαποροῖ, τί παθῶν ὁ Ἑρασίστρατος εἰς τοσοῦτον τῶν Ἴπποκράτους δογμάτων ἀπετράπετο καὶ διὰ τί τῶν ἐν ἥπατι πόρων τῶν χοληδόχων, ἅλις γὰρ ἤδη νεφρῶν, ἀφελόμενος τὴν ἐλκτικὴν δύναμιν ἐπίκαιρον αἰτιᾶται θέσιν καὶ στομάτων στενότητα καὶ χώραν τινα κοινήν, εἰς ἣν παράγουσι μὲν αἱ ἀπὸ τῶν πυλῶν τὸ ἀκάθαρτον αἶμα, μεταλαμβάνουσι δὲ πρότεροι μὲν οἱ πόροι τὴν χολήν, δευτέραι δ' αἱ ἀπὸ τῆς κοίλης φλεβὸς τὸ καθαρὸν αἶμα. πρὸς γὰρ τῷ μηδὲν ἂν βλαβῆται τὴν ὀλκὴν εἰπῶν ἄλλων μυρίων ἔμελλεν ἀμφισβητουμένων ἀπαλλάξεσθαι λόγων.

V

94 Ὡς νῦν γε πόλεμος οὐ σμικρὸς ἐστὶ τοῖς Ἑρασιστρατεῖοις οὐ πρὸς τοὺς ἄλλους μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους, οὐκ ἔχουσιν, ὅπως ἐξηγήσονται τὴν ἐκ τοῦ πρώτου τῶν καθόλου λόγων λέξιν, ἐν ἣ φησιν· “Εἰς τὸ || αὐτὸ δ' ἀνεστομωμένων ἐτέρων δύο ἀγγείων τῶν τ' ἐπὶ τὴν χοληδόχον τεινόντων καὶ τῶν ἐπὶ τὴν κοίλην φλέβα συμβαίνει τῆς ἀναφερομένης ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας τροφῆς τὰ ἐναρμόζοντα ἑκατέρωθεν τῶν στομάτων εἰς ἑκάτερα τῶν ἀγγείων μεταλαμβάνεσθαι καὶ τὰ μὲν ἐπὶ τὴν χοληδόχον φέρεσθαι, τὰ δ' ἐπὶ τὴν κοίλην φλέβα περαιούσθαι.” τὸ γὰρ “εἰς τὸ αὐτὸ ἀνεστομωμένων,” ὃ κατ' ἀρχὰς τῆς λέξεως γέγραπται, τί ποτε χρὴ νοῆσαι, χαλεπὸν εἰπεῖν. ἦτοι γὰρ οὕτως εἰς ταῦτόν, ὥστε τῷ τῆς ἐν τοῖς σιμοῖς φλεβὸς πέρατι συνάπτειν δύο ἕτερα πέρατα, τό τ' ἐν τοῖς κυρτοῖς καὶ τὸ τοῦ χοληδόχου πόρου, ἦ, εἰ μὴ οὕτω, χώραν τινα κοινήν ἐπινοῆσαι χρὴ τῶν τριῶν ἀγγείων οἷον δεξαμενὴν τινα, πληρουμένην μὲν ὑπὸ τῆς κάτω φλεβὸς, ἐκκενουμένην δ' εἰς τε τοὺς χοληδόχους πόρους καὶ τὰς τῆς κοίλης ἀποσχίδας· καθ' ἑκατέραν δὲ τῶν ἐξηγήσεων ἄτοπα πολλά, περὶ ὧν εἰ πάντων λέγοιμι, λάθοιμι' ἂν ἐμαυτὸν ἐξηγήσεις Ἑρασιστράτου γράφων, οὐχ, ὅπερ ἔξ ἀρχῆς προῦθέμην, περαίνων. κοινὸν δ' ἀμφοτέραις ταῖς ἐξηγήσεσιν ἄτοπον τὸ μὴ || καθαίρεσθαι πᾶν τὸ αἶμα. χρὴ γὰρ ὡς εἰς ἡθμόν τινα τὸ χοληδόχον ἀγγεῖον ἐπιπίπτειν αὐτό, οὐ παρέρχεσθαι καὶ παραρρεῖν ὡκέως εἰς τὸ μεῖζον στόμα τῆ ρύμη τῆς ἀναδόσεως φερόμενον.

95 Ἄρ' οὖν ἐν τούτοις μόνον ἀπορίαις ἀφύκτοις ὁ Ἑρασιστράτου λόγος ἐνέχεται μὴ βουλευθέντος χρῆσασθαι ταῖς ἐλκτικαῖς δυνάμεσιν εἰς μηδέν, ἢ σφοδρότατα μὲν ἐν τούτοις καὶ σαφῶς οὕτως, ὡς ἂν μηδὲ παῖδα λαθεῖν;

VI

96 Εἰ δ' ἐπισκοποῖτό τις ἐπιμελῶς, οὐδ' ὁ περὶ θρέψεως αὐτοῦ λόγος, ὃν ἐν τῷ δευτέρῳ τῶν καθόλου λόγων διεξέρχεται, τὰς αὐτὰς ἀπορίας ἐκφεύγει. τῇ γὰρ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία συγχωρηθέντος ἐνὸς λήμματος, ὡς πρόσθεν ἐδείκνυμεν, ἐπέραινε τι περὶ φλεβῶν μόνων καὶ τοῦ κατ' αὐτὰς αἵματος. ἐκρέοντος γὰρ τινος κατὰ τὰ στόματ' αὐτῶν καὶ διαφορουμένου καὶ μήτ' ἀθρόως τόπου κενοῦ δυναμένου γενέσθαι μήτε τῶν φλεβῶν συμπεσεῖν, τοῦτο γὰρ ἦν τὸ παραλειπόμενον, ἀναγκαῖον ἦν ἔπεσθαι τὸ συνεχὲς ἀναπληροῦν τοῦ κενου||μένου τὴν βάσιν. αἱ μὲν δὴ φλέβες ἡμῖν οὕτω θρέπονται τοῦ περιεχομένου κατ' αὐτὰς αἵματος ἀπολαύουσαι· τὰ δὲ νεῦρα πῶς; οὐ γὰρ δὴ κἂν τούτοις ἐστὶν αἶμα, πρόχειρον μὲν γὰρ ἦν εἰπεῖν, ἔλκοντα παρὰ τῶν φλεβῶν· ἀλλ' οὐ βούλεται. τί ποτ' οὖν κἂνταῦθα ἐπιτεχνᾶται; φλέβας ἔχειν ἐν ἑαυτῷ καὶ ἀρτηρίας τὸ νεῦρον ὡσπερ τινα σειρὰν ἐκ τριῶν ἱμάντων διαφερόντων

Pg 144
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 146
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 148
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 150
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

τῆ φύσει πεπλεγμένην. ᾠήθη γὰρ ἐκ ταύτης τῆς ὑποθέσεως ἐκφεύξεσθαι τῷ λόγῳ τὴν ὀλκὴν· οὐ γὰρ ἂν ἔτι δεήσεσθαι τὸ νεῦρον ἐν ἑαυτῷ περιέχον αἵματος ἀγγεῖον ἐπιρρύτου τινὸς ἔξωθεν ἐκ τῆς παρακειμένης φλεβὸς τῆς ἀληθινῆς αἵματος ἑτέρου, ἀλλ' ἱκανὸν αὐτῷ πρὸς τὴν θρέψιν ἔσεσθαι τὸ κατεψευσμένον ἀγγεῖον ἐκεῖνο τὸ λόγῳ θεωρητόν.

97 Ἀλλὰ κἀνταῦθα πάλιν αὐτὸν ὁμοία τις ἀπορία διεδέξατο. τουτὶ γὰρ τὸ μικρὸν ἀγγεῖον ἑαυτὸ μὲν θρέψει, τὸ παρακείμενον μὲντοι νεῦρον ἐκεῖνο τὸ ἀπλοῦν ἢ τὴν ἀρτηρίαν οὐχ οἶόν τ' ἔσται τρέφειν ἄνευ τοῦ σύμφυτόν τιν' ὑπάρχειν αὐτοῖς ὀλκὴν τῆς τροφῆς. || τῆ μὲν γὰρ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία πῶς ἂν ἔτι δύναιτο τὴν τροφήν ἐπισπᾶσθαι τὸ ἀπλοῦν νεῦρον, ὡσπερ αἱ φλέβες αἱ σύνθετοι; κοιλότης μὲν γὰρ τίς ἐστὶν ἐν αὐτῷ κατ' αὐτόν, ἀλλ' οὐχ αἵματος αὕτη γ' ἀλλὰ πνεύματος ψυχικοῦ μεστή. δεόμεθα δ' ἡμεῖς οὐκ εἰς τὴν κοιλότητα ταύτην εἰσάγειν τῷ λόγῳ τὴν τροφήν ἀλλ' εἰς τὸ περιέχον αὐτὴν ἀγγεῖον, εἴτ' οὖν τρέφεσθαι μόνον εἶτε καὶ αὐξεσθαι δεοίτο. πῶς οὖν εἰσάξομεν; οὕτω γὰρ ἐστὶ μικρὸν ἐκεῖνο τὸ ἀπλοῦν ἀγγεῖον καὶ μὲντοι καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἐκάτερον, ὥστ', εἰ τῆ λεπτοτάτη βελόνη νύξειάς τι μέρος, ἅμα διαιρήσεις τὰ τρία. τόπος οὖν αἰσθητὸς ἀθρόως κενὸς οὐκ ἂν ποτ' ἐν αὐτῷ γένοιτο· λόγῳ δὲ θεωρητὸς τόπος κενούμενος οὐκ ἦν ἀναγκαστικὸς τῆς τοῦ συνεχοῦς ἀκολουθίας.

Pg 152
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

98 Ἦβουλόμην δ' αὖ πάλιν μοι κἀνταῦθα τὸν Ἐρασίστρατον αὐτὸν ἀποκρίνασθαι περὶ τοῦ στοιχειώδους ἐκείνου νεύρου τοῦ μικροῦ, πότερον ἔν τι καὶ συνεχὲς ἀκριβῶς ἐστὶν ἢ ἐκ πολλῶν καὶ μικρῶν σωμάτων, ὧν Ἐπίκουρος καὶ Λεύκιππος καὶ Δημόκριτος ὑπέθεντο, σύγ|κεται. καὶ γὰρ καὶ περὶ τούτου τοὺς Ἐρασιστρατεῖους ὀρῶ διαφερομένους. οἱ μὲν γὰρ ἔν τι καὶ συνεχὲς αὐτὸ νομίζουσιν ἢ οὐκ ἂν ἀπλοῦν εἰρησθαι πρὸς αὐτοῦ φασι· τινὲς δὲ καὶ τοῦτο διαλύειν εἰς ἕτερα στοιχειώδη τολμῶσιν. ἀλλ' εἰ μὲν ἔν τι καὶ συνεχὲς ἐστὶ, τὸ κενούμενον ἐξ αὐτοῦ κατὰ τὴν ἄδηλον ὑπὸ τῶν ἰατρῶν ὀνομαζομένην διαπνοὴν οὐδεμίαν ἐν ἑαυτῷ καταλείπει χώραν κενήν. οὕτω γὰρ οὐχ ἔν ἀλλὰ πολλὰ γενήσεται, διειργόμενα δῆπου ταῖς κεναῖς χώραις. εἰ δ' ἐκ πολλῶν σύγκεται, τῆ κηπαία κατὰ τὴν παροιμίαν πρὸς Ἀσκληπιάδην ἀπεχωρήσαμεν ἄναρμά τινα στοιχεῖα τιθέμενοι. πάλιν οὖν ἄτεχνος ἡμῖν ἢ φύσις λεγέσθω· τοῖς γὰρ τοιοῦτοις στοιχείοις ἐξ ἀνάγκης τοῦθ' ἔπεται.

Pg 154
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

99 Διὸ δὴ μοι καὶ δοκοῦσιν ἀμαθῶς πάνυ τὴν εἰς τὰ τοιαῦτα στοιχεῖα τῶν ἀπλῶν ἀγγείων εἰσάγειν διάλυσιν ἔνιοι τῶν Ἐρασιστρατεῖων. ἐμοὶ γοῦν οὐδὲν διαφέρει. καθ' ἑκατέρους γὰρ ἄτοπος ὁ τῆς θρέψεως ἔσται λόγος, ἐκείνοις τοῖς ἀπλοῖς ἀγγείοις τοῖς μικροῖς τοῖς συντιθεῖσι τὰ μεγάλα || τε καὶ αἰσθητὰ νεῦρα κατὰ μὲν τοὺς συνεχῆ φυλάττοντας αὐτὰ μὴ δυναμένης γενέσθαι τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας, ὅτι μηδὲν ἐν τῷ συνεχεῖ γίνεσθαι κενόν, κἂν ἀπορρή τι· συνεχίζεται γὰρ πρὸς ἄλληλα τὰ καταλειπόμενα μόρια, καθάπερ ἐπὶ τοῦ ὕδατος ὀράται, καὶ πάλιν ἐν γίνεσθαι πάντα τὴν χώραν τοῦ διαφορηθέντος αὐτὰ καταλαμβάνοντα· κατὰ δὲ τοὺς ἑτέρους, ὅτι τῶν στοιχείων ἐκείνων οὐδὲν δεῖται τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας. ἐπὶ γὰρ τῶν αἰσθητῶν μόνων, οὐκ ἐπὶ τῶν λόγῳ θεωρητῶν ἔχει δύναμιν, ὡς αὐτὸς ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ὁμολογεῖ διαρρήδην, οὐ περὶ τοῦ τοιούτου κενοῦ φάσκων ἐκάστοτε ποιεῖσθαι τὸν λόγον, ὃ κατὰ βραχὺ παρέσπαρται τοῖς σώμασιν, ἀλλὰ περὶ τοῦ σαφοῦς καὶ αἰσθητοῦ καὶ ἀθρόου καὶ μεγάλου καὶ ἑναργοῦς καὶ ὅπως ἂν ἄλλως ὀνομάζειν ἐθέλης. Ἐρασίστρατος μὲν γὰρ αὐτὸς αἰσθητὸν ἀθρόως οὐ φησι δύνασθαι γενέσθαι κενόν· ἐγὼ δ' ἐκ περιουσίας εὐπορήσας ὀνομάτων ταῦτόν δηλοῦν ἔν γε τῷ νῦν προκειμένῳ λόγῳ δυναμένων καὶ τάλλα προσέθηκα.

Pg 156
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

100 Κάλλιον οὖν μοι δοκεῖ καὶ || ἡμᾶς τι συνεισενέγκασθαι τοῖς Ἐρασιστρατεῖοις, ἐπειδὴ κατὰ τοῦτο γεγόναμεν, καὶ συμβουλευσαι τοῖς τὸ πρῶτον ἐκεῖνο καὶ ἀπλοῦν ὑπ' Ἐρασιστράτου καλούμενον ἀγγεῖον εἰς ἕτερ' ἄττα σώματα στοιχειώδη διαλύουσιν ἀποστῆναι τῆς ὑπολήψεως, ὡς πρὸς τῷ μηδὲν ἔχειν πλέον ἔτι καὶ διαφερομένοις Ἐρασιστράτῳ. ὅτι μὲν οὖν οὐδὲν ἔχει πλέον, ἐπιδέδεικται σαφῶς· οὐδὲ γὰρ ἠδυνήθη διαφυγεῖν τὴν περὶ τῆς θρέψεως ἀπορίαν ἢ ὑπόθεσις· ὅτι δ' οὐδ' Ἐρασιστράτῳ σύμφωνός ἐστιν, ὃ ἐκεῖνος ἀπλοῦν καὶ πρῶτον ὀνομάζει, σύνθετον ἀποφαίνουσα, καὶ τὴν τῆς φύσεως τέχνην ἀναιροῦσα, πρόδηλον καὶ τοῦτ' εἶναι μοι δοκεῖ. εἰ μὴ γὰρ κἂν τοῖς ἀπλοῖς τούτοις ἔνωσιν τινα τῆς οὐσίας ἀπολείψομεν, ἀλλ' εἰς ἄναρμα καὶ ἀμέριστα καταβησόμεθα στοιχεῖα, παντάπασιν ἀναιρήσομεν τῆς φύσεως τὴν τέχνην, ὡσπερ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἐκ ταύτης ὀρμώμενοι τῆς ὑποθέσεως ἰατροὶ καὶ φιλόσοφοι. δευτέρα γὰρ τῶν τοῦ ζώου μορίων κατὰ τὴν τοιαύτην ὑπόθεσιν ἢ φύσις, οὐ πρώτη γίνεσθαι. διαπλάττειν δὲ || καὶ δημιουργεῖν οὐ τοῦ δευτέρου γεγονότος, ἀλλὰ τοῦ προϋπάρχοντός ἐστιν· ὥστ' ἀναγκαῖόν ἐστιν εὐθὺς ἐκ σπερμάτων ὑποθέσθαι τὰς δυνάμεις τῆς φύσεως, αἷς διαπλάττει τε καὶ αὐξάνει καὶ τρέφει τὸ ζῶον· ἀλλ' ἐκείνων τῶν σωμάτων τῶν ἀνάρμων καὶ ἀμερῶν οὐδὲν ἐν ἑαυτῷ διαπλαστικὴν ἔχει δύναμιν ἢ αὐξητικὴν ἢ θρεπτικὴν ἢ ὄλως τεχνικὴν· ἀπαθὲς γὰρ καὶ ἀμετάβλητον ὑπόκειται. τῶν δ' εἰρημένων οὐδὲν ἄνευ μεταβολῆς καὶ ἀλλοιώσεως καὶ τῆς δι' ὄλων κράσεως γίνεσθαι, καθάπερ καὶ διὰ τῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἐνεδειξάμεθα. καὶ διὰ ταύτην τὴν ἀνάγκην οὐκ ἔχοντες, ὅπως τὰ ἀκόλουθα τοῖς στοιχείοις, οἷς ὑπέθεντο, φυλάττοιεν, οἱ ἀπὸ τῶν τοιούτων αἰρέσεων ἅπαντες ἄτεχνον ἠναγκάσθησαν ἀποφῆνασθαι τὴν φύσιν. καίτοι ταῦτα γ' οὐ παρ' ἡμῶν ἐχρήν μανθάνειν τοὺς Ἐρασιστρατεῖους, ἀλλὰ παρ' αὐτῶν τῶν φιλοσόφων, οἷς μάλιστα δοκεῖ πρῶτον ἐπισκοπεῖσθαι τὰ στοιχεῖα τῶν ὄντων ἀπάντων.

Pg 158
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Οὐκ οὖν οὐδ' Ἐρασίστρατον ἂν τις ὀρθῶς ἄχρι τῶσάυτης ἀμαθίας νομίζοι προήκειν,

102 ὡς μηδὲ ταύτην γνωρίσαι δυνηθῆναι τὴν ἀκολουθίαν, ἀλλ' ἅμα μὲν ὑποθέσθαι τεχνικὴν τὴν φύσιν, ἅμα δ' εἰς ἀπαθῆ καὶ ἄναρμα καὶ ἀμετάβλητα στοιχεῖα καταθραῦσαι τὴν οὐσίαν. καὶ μὴν εἰ δώσειν τιν' ἐν τοῖς στοιχείοις ἀλλοιώσιν τε καὶ μεταβολὴν καὶ ἔνωσιν καὶ συνέχειαν, ἐν ἀσύνθετον αὐτῷ τὸ ἀπλοῦν ἀγγεῖον ἐκεῖνο, καθάπερ καὶ αὐτὸς ὀνομάζει, γενήσεται. ἀλλ' ἢ μὲν ἀπλῆ φλῆψ ἐξ αὐτῆς τραφήσεται, τὸ νεῦρον δὲ καὶ ἡ ἀρτηρία παρὰ τῆς πλεβῆδος. πῶς καὶ τίνα τρόπον; ἐν τούτῳ γὰρ διὰ καὶ πρόσθεν γενόμενοι τῷ λόγῳ τῆς τῶν Ἐρασιστρατείων διαφωνίας ἐμνημονεύσαμεν, ἐπεδείξαμεν δὲ καὶ καθ' ἑκατέρους μὲν ἄπορον εἶναι τὴν τῶν ἀπλῶν ἐκείνων ἀγγείων θρέψιν, ἀλλὰ καὶ κρῖναι τὴν μάχην αὐτῶν οὐκ ὠκνήσαμεν καὶ τιμῆσαι τὸν Ἐρασίστρατον εἰς τὴν βελτίονα μεταστήσαντες αἴρεσιν.

Pg 160
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Αὐθις οὖν ἐπὶ τὴν ἐν ἀπλοῦν ἠνωμένον ἑαυτῷ πάντῃ τὸ στοιχειῶδες ἐκεῖνο νεῦρον ὑποτιθεμένην αἴρεσιν ὁ λόγος μεταβάς ἐπισκοπεῖσθω, πῶς τραφήσεται· τὸ γὰρ εὐρεθὲν ἐνταῦθα κοινὸν ἂν ἦδη καὶ τῆς Ἱπποκράτους αἰρέσεως γένοιτο.

103 Κάλλιον δ' ἂν μοι δοκῶ τὸ ζητούμενον ἐπὶ τῶν νεοσηκῶν καὶ σφόδρα καταλελεπτυσμένων βασανισθῆναι. πάντα γὰρ τούτοις ἐναργῶς φαίνεται τὰ μόρια τοῦ σώματος ἄτροφα καὶ λεπτὰ καὶ πολλῆς προσθήκης τε καὶ ἀναθρέψεως δεόμενα. καὶ τοίνυν καὶ τὸ νεῦρον τοῦτο τὸ αἰσθητόν, ἐφ' οὐπερ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐποίησάμην τὸν λόγον, ἰσχυρὸν μὲν ἱκανῶς γέγονε, δεῖται δὲ θρέψεως. ἔχει δ' ἐν ἑαυτῷ μέρη πάμπολλα μὲν ἐκεῖνα τὰ πρῶτα καὶ ἀόρατα νεῦρα τὰ μικρὰ καὶ τινεὶς ἀρτηρίας ἀπλᾶς ὀλίγας καὶ φλέβας ὁμοίως. ἅπαντ' οὖν αὐτοῦ τὰ νεῦρα τὰ στοιχειώδη καταλελεπτύνονται δηλονότι καὶ αὐτά, ἢ, εἰ μηδ' ἐκεῖνα, οὐδὲ τὸ ὅλον. καὶ τοίνυν καὶ θρέψεως οὐ τὸ μὲν ὅλον δεῖται νεῦρον, ἕκαστον δ' ἐκείνων οὐ δεῖται. καὶ μὴν εἰ δεῖται μὲν ἀναθρέψεως, οὐδὲν δ' ἢ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία βοηθεῖν αὐτοῖς δύναται διὰ τε τὰς ἔμπροσθεν εἰρημένης ἀπορίας καὶ διὰ τὴν ὑπόγειον ἰσχύτητα, καθάπερ δεῖξω, ζητητέον ἡμῖν ἐστὶν ἕτεραν αἰτίαν θρέψεως.

Pg 162
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

104 Πῶς οὖν ἢ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία τρέφειν ἀδύνατός ἐστι τὸν οὕτω διακείμενον; ὅτι τοσοῦτον ἀκολουθεῖν ἢ ἀναγκάζει τῶν συνεχῶν, ὅσον ἀπορρεῖ. τοῦτο δ' ἐπὶ μὲν τῶν εὐεκτούντων ἱκανόν ἐστιν εἰς τὴν θρέψιν, ἴσα γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῶν εἶναι χρὴ τοῖς ἀπορρέουσι τὰ προστιθέμενα· ἐπὶ δὲ τῶν ἐσχάτως ἰσχυρῶν καὶ πολλῆς ἀναθρέψεως δεομένων εἰ μὴ πολλαπλάσιον εἶη τὸ προστιθέμενον τοῦ κενουμένου, τὴν ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἔξιν ἀναλαβεῖν οὐκ ἂν ποτε δύναιντο. διῆλον οὖν, ὡς ἔλκειν αὐτὰ δεήσει τοσοῦτω πλεῖον, ὅσῳ καὶ δεῖται πλείονος. Ἐρασίστρατος δὲ κἀνταῦθα πρότερον ποιήσας τὸ δεύτερον οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως οὐκ αἰσθάνεται. διότι γὰρ, φησί, πολλὴ πρόσθεσις εἰς ἀνάθρεψιν γίνεταί τοις νεοσηκῶσι, διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἢ πρὸς ταύτην ἀκολουθία πολλή. πῶς δ' ἂν πολλὴ πρόσθεσις γένοιτο μὴ προηγουμένης ἀναδόσεως δαψιλοῦς; εἰ δὲ τὴν διὰ τῶν φλεβῶν φορὰν τῆς τροφῆς ἀνάδοσιν καλεῖ, τὴν δ' εἰς ἕκαστον τῶν ἀπλῶν καὶ ἀοράτων ἐκείνων νεύρων καὶ ἀρτηριῶν μετάληψιν οὐκ ἀνάδοσιν ἀλλὰ διάδοσιν, ὡς τινεὶς ὀνομάζειν ἠξίωσαν, εἶτα ἢ τὴν διὰ τῶν φλεβῶν μόνῃ τῇ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία φησὶ γίνεσθαι, τὴν εἰς τὰ λόγῳ θεωρητὰ μετάληψιν ἡμῖν ἐξηγησάσθω. ὅτι μὲν γὰρ οὐκέτ' ἐπὶ τούτων ἢ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία λέγεσθαι δύναται καὶ μάλιστα' ἐπὶ τῶν ἐσχάτως ἰσχυρῶν, ἀποδέδεικται. τί δὲ φησιν ἐπ' αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ δευτέρῳ τῶν καθόλου λόγων ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος, ἄξιον ἐπακοῦσαι τῆς λέξεως: “Τοῖς δ' ἐσχάτοις τε καὶ ἀπλοῖς, λεπτοῖς τε καὶ στενοῖς οὖσιν, ἐκ τῶν παρακειμένων ἀγγείων ἢ πρόσθεσις συμβαίνει εἰς τὰ κενώματα τῶν ἀπενεχθέντων κατὰ τὰ πλάγια τῶν ἀγγείων ἐλκομένης τῆς τροφῆς καὶ καταχωριζομένης.” ἐκ ταύτης τῆς λέξεως πρῶτον μὲν τὸ κατὰ τὰ πλάγια προσίεμαί τε καὶ ἀποδέχομαι· κατὰ μὲν γὰρ αὐτὸ τὸ στόμα τὸ ἀπλοῦν νεῦρον οὐκ ἂν δύναίτο δεχόμενον τὴν τροφήν οὕτως εἰς ὅλον ἑαυτὸ διανέμειν· ἀνάκειται γὰρ ἐκεῖνο τῷ ψυχικῷ πνεύματι· κατὰ δὲ τὸ πλάγιον ἐκ τῆς παρακειμένης φλεβῆδος τῆς ἀπλῆς ἐγγωρεῖ λαβεῖν αὐτό. δεύτερον δ' ἀποδέχομαι τῶν ἐκ τῆς Ἐρασιστράτου λέξεως ὀνομάτων τὸ γεγραμμένον ἐφεξῆς τῷ κατὰ τὰ πλάγια. ἢ τί γὰρ φησι; “Κατὰ τὰ πλάγια τῶν ἀγγείων ἐλκομένης τῆς τροφῆς.” ὅτι μὲν οὖν ἔλκεται, καὶ ἡμεῖς ὁμολογοῦμεν, ὅτι δ' οὐ τῇ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία, δέδεικται πρόσθεν.

Pg 164
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

VII

Ἐξεύρωμεν οὖν κοινῇ, πῶς ἔλκεται. πῶς δ' ἄλλως ἢ ὡς ὁ σίδηρος ὑπὸ τῆς ἡρακλείας λίθου δύναμιν ἐχούσης ἐλκτικὴν τοιαύτης ποιότητος; ἀλλ' εἰ τὴν μὲν ἀρχὴν τῆς ἀναδόσεως ἢ τῆς κοιλίας ἐνθλιψίς παρέχεται, τὴν δὲ μετὰ ταῦτα φορὰν ἅπασαν αἶ τε φλέβες περιστελλόμεναι καὶ προωθοῦσαι καὶ τῶν τροφομένων ἕκαστον ἐπισπώμενον εἰς ἑαυτό, τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας ἀποστάντες, ὡς οὐ πρεπούσης ἀνδρὶ τεχνικῆν ὑποθεμένῳ τὴν φύσιν, οὕτως ἂν ἦδη καὶ τὴν ἀντιλογίαν εἴημεν πεφουγότες τὴν Ἀσκληπιάδου μὴ δυνάμενοί γε λύειν αὐτήν. τὸ γὰρ εἰς τὴν ἀπόδειξιν παραλαμβανόμενον λῆμμα τὸ διεζευγμένον οὐκ ἐκ δυοῖν ἀλλ' ἐκ τριῶν ἐστὶ κατὰ γε τὴν ἀλήθειαν διεζευγμένον. εἰ μὲν οὖν ὡς ἐκ δυοῖν αὐτῷ χρῆσασαίμεθα, ψεῦδος ἔσται τι τῶν εἰς τὴν ἀπόδειξιν παρελημμένων· εἰ δ' ὡς ἐκ τριῶν, ἀπέραντος ὁ λόγος γενήσεται.

Pg 166
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

107

VIII

Καὶ ταῦτ' οὐκ ἐχρῆν ἀγνοεῖν τὸν Ἐρασίστρατον, εἴπερ κἀν ὄναρ ποτὲ τοῖς ἐκ τοῦ περιπάτου συνέτυχεν, ὡσπερ οὖν οὐδὲ τὰ περὶ τῆς γενέσεως τῶν χυμῶν, ὑπὲρ ὧν

οὐδὲν ἔχων εἰπεῖν οὐδὲ μέχρι τοῦ μετρίου πιθανὸν οἶεται παρακρούεσθαι σκηπτόμενος, ὡς οὐδὲ χρήσιμος ὅλως ἐστὶν ἢ τῶν τοιούτων ἐπίσκεψις. εἴτ' ὡς πρὸς θεῶν, ὅπως μὲν τὰ σιτία κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα πέττεται χρήσιμον ἐπίστασθαι, πῶς δ' ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶν ἢ χολῇ γίνεταί, περιττόν; καὶ τῆς κενώσεως ἄρα φροντιστέον αὐτῆς μόνης, ἀμελητέον δὲ τῆς γενέσεως; ὡσπερ οὐκ ἄμεινον ὑπάρχον μακρῶ τὸ κωλύειν εὐθύς ἔξ ἀρχῆς γεννᾶσθαι πλείονα τοῦ πράγματ' ἔχειν ἐκκενοῦντας. θαυμαστὸν δὲ καὶ τὸ διαπορεῖν, εἴτ' ἐν τῷ σώματι τὴν γένεσιν αὐτῆς ὑποθετέον εἴτ' εὐθύς ἔξωθεν ἐν τοῖς σιτίοις περιέχεσθαι φατέον. εἰ γὰρ δὴ τοῦτο καλῶς ἠπόρηται, τί οὐχὶ καὶ περὶ τοῦ αἵματος ἐπισκεψόμεθα, πότερον ἐν τῷ σώματι ἢ λαμβάνει τὴν γένεσιν ἢ τοῖς σιτίοις παρέσπαρται, καθάπερ οἱ τὰς ὁμοιομερείας ὑποτιθέμενοί φασι; καὶ μὴν πολλῶ γ' ἦν χρησιμώτερον ζητεῖσθαι, ποῖα τῶν σιτίων ὁμολογεῖ τῆς αἱματώσεως ἐνεργεία καὶ ποῖα διαφέρεται, τοῦ ζητεῖν, τίνα μὲν τῆς γαστρὸς ἐνεργεία νικᾶται ῥαδίως, τίνα δ' ἀντιβαίνει καὶ μάχεται. τούτων μὲν γὰρ ἡ ἔκλεξις εἰς πέψιν μόνην, ἐκείνων δ' εἰς αἷματος χρηστοῦ διαφέρει γένεσιν. οὐδὲ γὰρ ἴσον ἐστὶν ἢ μὴ καλῶς ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ χυλωθῆναι τὴν τροφήν ἢ μὴ χρηστὸν αἶμα γεννηθῆναι. πῶς δ' οὐκ αἰδεῖται τὰς μὲν τῆς πέψεως ἀποτυχίας διαιρούμενος, ὡς πολλάκι τ' εἰσὶ καὶ κατὰ πολλὰς γίνονται προφάσεις, ὑπὲρ δὲ τῶν τῆς αἱματώσεως σφαλμάτων οὐδ' ἄχρι ῥήματος ἐνὸς οὐδ' ἄχρι συλλαβῆς μιᾶς φθελγξάμενος; καὶ μὴν εὐρίσκεται γε καὶ παχὺ καὶ λεπτὸν ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶν αἶμα καὶ τοῖς μὲν ἐρυθρότερον, τοῖς δὲ ξανθότερον, τοῖς δὲ μελάντερον, τοῖς δὲ φλεγματοδέστερον. εἰ δ' ὅτι καὶ δυσῶδες οὐχ ἕνα τρόπον ἀλλ' ἐν πολλαῖς πάνυ διαφοραῖς ἀρρήτοις μὲν λόγῳ, σαφροστάταις δ' αἰσθήσεσι φαίνεται γινόμενον, εἰδείη τις, οὐκ ἂν οἶμαι μετρίως ἔτι καταγνώσεσθαι τῆς Ἐρασιστράτου ῥαθυμίας αὐτὸν οὕτω γ' ἀναγκαίαν εἰς τὰ ἔργα τῆς τέχνης θεωρίαν παραλιπόντος.

Pg 168
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ἐναργῆ γὰρ δὴ καὶ τὰ περὶ τῶν ὑδέρων ἀμαρτήματα τῇ ῥαθυμίᾳ ταύτῃ κατὰ λόγον ἠκολουθηκότα. τό τε γὰρ τῇ στενοχωρίᾳ τῶν ὁδῶν κωλύεσθαι νομίζειν πρόσω τοῦ ἥπατος ἰέναι τὸ αἶμα καὶ μηδέποτ' ἂν ἄλλως ὕδερρον δύνασθαι συστήναι πῶς οὐκ ἐσχάτην ἐνδείκνυται ῥαθυμίαν; τό τε μὴ διὰ τὸν σπλῆνα μηδὲ δι' ἄλλο τι μόριον, ἀλλ' αἰεὶ διὰ τὸν ἐν τῷ ἥπατι σκίρρον ὕδερρον οἶεσθαι γίνεσθαι τελέως ἀργοῦ τὴν διάνοιαν ἀνθρώπου καὶ μηδενὶ τῶν ὀσημέραι γιγνομένων παρακολουθούντος. ἐπὶ μὲν γε χρονίαις αἱμορροΐσιν ἐπισχεθείσιν ἢ διὰ κένωσιν ἄμετρον εἰς ψῦξιν ἐσχάτην ἀγαγούσιν τὸν ἄνθρωπον οὐχ ἅπαξ οὐδὲ δις ἀλλὰ πολλάκις ἤδη τεθεάμεθα συστάντας ὑδέρους, ὡσπερ γε καὶ γυναιξίν ἢ τε τῆς ἐφ' ἐκάστῳ μηνὶ καθάρσεως ἀπώλεια παντελῆς καὶ ἄμετρος κένωσις, ὅταν αἱμορραγῆσώσι ποθ' αἰ μῆτραι σφοδρῶς, ἐπεκαλέσαντο πολ|λάκις ὕδερρον καὶ τισιν αὐτῶν καὶ ὁ γυναικείως ὀνομαζόμενος ῥοῦς εἰς τοῦτ' ἔτελεύτησε τὸ πάθος, ἵνα τοὺς ἀπὸ τῶν κενώσεων ἀρχομένους ἢ ἄλλου τινὸς τῶν ἐπικαίρων μορίων ὑδέρους παραλίπω, σαφῶς μὲν καὶ αὐτοὺς ἐξελέγγχοντας τὴν Ἐρασιστράτειον ὑπόληψιν, ἀλλ' οὐχ οὕτως ἐναργῶς ὡς οἱ διὰ κατάψυξιν σφοδρὰν τῆς ὄλης ἔξεως ἀποτελούμενοι. πρώτη γὰρ αὕτη γενέσεως ὑδέρων αἰτία διὰ τὴν ἀποτυχίαν τῆς αἱματώσεως γιγνομένην τρόπον ὁμοιότατον ταῖς ἐπὶ τῇ τῶν σιτίων ἀπεψίᾳ διαρροίαις. οὐ μὴν ἐσκίρρωται γε κατὰ τοὺς τοιούτους ὑδέρους οὐδ' ἄλλο τι σπλάγχνον οὐδὲ τὸ ἥπαρ.

Pg 170
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ἄλλ' Ἐρασιστράτος ὁ σοφὸς ὑπεριδὼν καὶ καταφρονήσας, ὣν οὐθ' Ἴπποκράτης οὔτε Διοκλῆς οὔτε Πραξαγόρας οὔτε Φιλιστίων ἀλλ' οὐδὲ τῶν ἀρίστων φιλοσόφων οὐδεὶς κατεφρόνησεν οὔτε Πλάτων οὔτ' Ἀριστοτέλης οὔτε Θεόφραστος, ὅλας ἐνεργείας ὑπερβαίνει καθάπερ τι μικρὸν καὶ τὸ τυχὸν τῆς τέχνης παραλιπὼν μέρος οὐδ' ἀντειπεῖν ἀξιώσας, εἴτ' ὀρθῶς εἴτε καὶ μὴ ἢ σύμπαντες οὗτοι θερμῶ καὶ ψυχρῶ καὶ ξηρῶ καὶ ὑγρῶ, τοῖς μὲν ὡς δρῶσι, τοῖς δ' ὡς πάσχουσι, τὰ κατὰ τὸ σῶμα τῶν ζῶων ἀπάντων διοικεῖσθαι φασι καὶ ὡς τὸ θερμὸν ἐν αὐτοῖς εἰς τε τὰς ἄλλας ἐνεργείας καὶ μάλιστ' εἰς τὴν τῶν χυμῶν γένεσιν τὸ πλεῖστον δύναται. ἀλλὰ τὸ μὲν μὴ πείθεσθαι τοσοῦτοις τε καὶ τηλικούτοις ἀνδράσι καὶ πλέον αὐτῶν οἶεσθαι τι γινώσκειν ἀνεμέσητον, τὸ δὲ μήτ' ἀντιλογίας ἀξιῶσαι μήτε μνήμης οὕτως ἔνδοξον δόγμα θαυμαστήν τινα τὴν ὑπεροψίαν ἐνδείκνυται.

Pg 172
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Καὶ μὴν μικρότατός ἐστι τὴν γνώμην καὶ ταπεινὸς ἐσχάτως ἐν ἀπάσαις ταῖς ἀντιλογίαις ἐν μὲν τοῖς περὶ τῆς πέψεως λόγοις τοῖς σήπασθαι τὰ σιτία νομίζουσι φιλοτίμως ἀντιλέγων, ἐν δὲ τοῖς περὶ τῆς ἀναδόσεως τοῖς διὰ τὴν παράθεσιν τῶν ἀρτηριῶν ἀναδίδοσθαι τὸ διὰ τῶν φλεβῶν αἶμα νομίζουσιν, ἐν δὲ τοῖς περὶ τῆς ἀναποῆς τοῖς περιωθεῖσθαι τὸν ἀέρα φάσκουσιν. οὐκ ὠκνησε δ' οὐδὲ τοῖς ἀτιμοιδῶς εἰς τὴν κύστιν ἰέναι τὰ οὖρα νομίζουσιν ἀντειπεῖν οὐδὲ τοῖς εἰς ἢ τὸν πνεύμονα φέρεσθαι τὸ ποτόν. οὕτως ἐν ἅπασιν τὰς χειρίστας ἐπιλεγόμενος δόξας ἀγάλλεται διατρίβων ἐπὶ πλέον ἐν ταῖς ἀντιλογίαις· ἐπὶ δὲ τῆς τοῦ αἵματος γενέσεως οὐδὲν ἀτιμότερας οὔσης τῆς ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ χυλώσεως τῶν σιτίων οὐτ' ἀντειπεῖν τινὶ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων ἠξίωσεν οὐτ' αὐτὸς εἰσηγήσασθαι τιν' ἑτέραν γνώμην ἐτόλμησεν, ὁ περὶ πασῶν τῶν φυσικῶν ἐνεργειῶν ἐν ἀρχῇ τῶν καθόλου λόγων ὑποσχόμενος ἐρεῖν, ὅπως τε γίνονται καὶ δι' ὠντινων τοῦ ζῶου μορίων. ἢ τῆς μὲν πέττειν τὰ σιτία πεφυκίας δυνάμεως ἀρρωστούσης ἀπεπτήσει τὸ ζῶον, τῆς δ' αἱματούσης τὰ πεφθέντα οὐδὲν ἔσται πάθημα τὸ παράπαν, ἀλλ' ἀδαμαντίνῃ τις ἡμῖν αὕτη μόνη καὶ ἀπαθῆς ἐστίν; ἢ ἄλλο τι τῆς ἀρρωστίας αὐτῆς ἔκγονον ὑπάρξει καὶ οὐχ ὕδερρος; δῆλος οὖν ἐναργῶς ἐστὶν ὁ Ἐρασιστράτος ἐξ ὧν ἐν μὲν τοῖς ἄλλοις οὐδὲ ταῖς φαυλοτάταις δόξαις ἀντιλέγειν ὠκνησεν, ἐνταυθοῖ δ' οὐτ' ἀντειπεῖν τοῖς πρόσθεν οὐτ' αὐτὸς εἰπεῖν τι καινὸν ἐτόλμησε, τὸ σφάλμα τῆς ἑαυτοῦ γνωρίζων αἰρέσεως.

Pg 174
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Τί γὰρ ἂν καὶ λέγειν ἔσχεν ὑπὲρ αἵματος ἢ ἄνθρωπος εἰς μηδὲν τῷ συμφύτῳ θερμῶ

Pg 176
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

χρώμενος; τί δὲ περὶ ξανθῆς χολῆς ἢ μελαίνης ἢ φλέγματος; ὅτι νῆ Δία δυνατὸν ἔστιν ἀναμεμιγμένην τοῖς σιτίοις εὐθὺς ἔξωθεν παραγίνεσθαι τὴν χολήν. λέγει γοῦν ὡδέ πως αὐτοῖς ὀνόμασι· “Πότερον δ' ἐν τῇ περὶ τὴν κοιλίαν κατεργασία τῆς τροφῆς γεννᾶται τοιαύτη ὑγρασία ἢ μεμιγμένη τοῖς ἔξωθεν προσφερομένοις παραγίνεσθαι, οὐδὲν χρήσιμον πρὸς ἰατρικὴν ἐπεσκέφθαι.” καὶ μὴν, ὦ γενναιότατε, καὶ κενούσθαι χρῆναι φάσκεις ἐκ τοῦ ζῶον τὸν χυμὸν τοῦτον καὶ μέγαν λυπεῖν, εἰ μὴ κενωθείη. πῶς οὖν οὐδὲν ἐξ αὐτοῦ χρηστὸν ὑπολαμβάνων γίνεσθαι τολμᾶς ἄχρηστον λέγειν εἰς ἰατρικὴν εἶναι τὴν περὶ τῆς γενέσεως αὐτοῦ σκέψιν;

114 Ὑποκείσθω γὰρ ἐν μὲν τοῖς σιτίοις περιέχεσθαι, μὴ διακρίνεσθαι δ' ἀκριβῶς ἐν ἥπατι· ταῦτα γὰρ ἀμφοτέρω νομίζεις εἶναι δυνατά. καὶ μὴν οὐ μικρὸν ἐνταῦθα τὸ διαφέρον ἢ ἐλαχίστην ἢ παμπόλλην χολήν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς περιέχοντα προσάρασθαι σιτία. τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀκίνδυνα, τὰ δὲ παμπόλλην περιέχοντα τῷ μὴ δύνασθαι πᾶσαν αὐτὴν ἐν ἥπατι καθαρθῆναι καλῶς αἰτία καταστήσεται τῶν τ' ἄλλων παθῶν, ὧν αὐτὸς ὁ Ἑρασίστρατος ἐπὶ πλήθει χολῆς γίνεσθαι φησι, καὶ τῶν ἰκτέρων οὐχ ἥκιστα. πῶς οὖν οὐκ ἀναγκαϊότατον ἰατρῷ γινώσκειν, πρῶτον μὲν, ὡς ἐν τοῖς σιτίοις αὐτοῖς ἔξωθεν ἢ χολῇ περιέχεται, δεύτερον δ', ὡς τὸ μὲν τεῦτλον, εἰ τύχοι, παμπόλλην, ὁ δ' ἄρτος ἐλαχίστην καὶ τὸ μὲν ἔλαιον πλείστην, ὁ δ' οἶνος ὀλιγίστην ἕκαστόν τε τῶν ἄλλων ἀνισον τῷ πλήθει περιέχει τὴν χολήν; πῶς γὰρ οὐκ ἂν εἶη γελοιότατος, ὃς ἂν ἐκὼν αἰρήται τὰ πλείονα χολήν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς περιέχοντα πρὸ τῶν ἐναντίων;

115 Τί δ' εἰ μὴ περιέχεται μὲν ἐν τοῖς σιτίοις ἢ χολῇ, γίνεσθαι δ' ἐν τοῖς τῶν ζῶων σώμασιν; ἢ οὐχὶ καὶ κατὰ τοῦτο χρήσιμον ἐπίστασθαι, τί μὲν καταστάσει σώματος ἔπεται πλείων αὐτῆς ἢ γένεσις, τί μὲν δ' ἐλάττων; ἀλλοιοῦν γὰρ δῆπου καὶ μεταβάλλειν οἷόν τ' ἐσμὲν καὶ τρέπειν ἐπὶ τὸ βέλτιον αἰεὶ τὰς μοχθηρὰς καταστάσεις τοῦ σώματος. ἀλλ' εἰ μὴ γινώσκουμεν, καθότι μοχθηρὰ καὶ ὀπη τῆς δεούσης ἐξίστανται, πῶς ἂν αὐτὰς ἐπανάγειν οἷόν τ' εἴημεν ἐπὶ τὸ ἥκρεϊττον;

116 Οὐκ οὐκ ἀχρηστὸν ἔστιν εἰς τὰς ἰάσεις, ὡς Ἑρασίστρατος φησιν, ἐπίστασθαι τάληθές αὐτὸ περὶ γενέσεως χολῆς, οὐ μὴν οὐδ' ἀδύνατον οὐδ' ἀσαφές ἐξευρεῖν, ὅτι μὴ τῷ πλείστην ἐν ἑαυτῷ περιέχειν τὸ μέλι τὴν ξανθὴν χολήν ἀλλ' ἐν τῷ σώματι μεταβαλλόμενον εἰς αὐτὴν ἀλλοιοῦνται τε καὶ τρέπεται. πικρὸν τε γὰρ ἂν ἦν γενομένοις, εἰ χολῇ ἔξωθεν εὐθὺς ἐν ἑαυτῷ περιείχετο ἅπασί τ' ἂν ὡσαύτως τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἴσον αὐτῆς ἐγένετο τὸ πλῆθος, ἀλλ' οὐχ ὡς ἔχει τάληθές. ἐν μὲν γὰρ τοῖς ἀκμάζουσι καὶ μάλιστα εἰ φύσει θερμότεροι καὶ βίον εἶεν βιοῦντες ταλαίπωρον, ἅπαν εἰς ξανθὴν χολήν μεταβάλλει τὸ μέλι· τοῖς γέρονσι δ' ἰκανῶς ἔστιν ἐπιτήδειον, ὡς ἂν οὐκ εἰς χολήν ἀλλ' εἰς αἷμα τὴν ἀλλοίωσιν ἐν ἐκείνοις λαμβάνουν. Ἑρασίστρατος δὲ πρὸς τῷ μηδὲν τούτων γινώσκειν οὐδὲ περὶ τὴν διαίρεσιν τοῦ λόγου σωφρονεῖ, πότερον ἐν τοῖς σιτίοις ἢ χολῇ περιέχεται εὐθὺς ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἢ κατὰ τὴν ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ κατεργασίαν ἐγένετο, μηδὲν εἶναι χρήσιμον εἰς ἰατρικὴν ἐπεσκέφθαι λέγων. ἐχρήν ἢ γὰρ δῆπου προσθεῖναι τι καὶ περὶ τῆς ἐν ἥπατι καὶ φλεψὶ γενέσεως αὐτῆς, ἐν τοῖσδε τοῖς ὀργάνοις γεννᾶσθαι τὴν χολήν ἅμα τῷ αἵματι τῶν παλαιῶν ἰατρῶν τε καὶ φιλοσόφων ἀποφνημαμένων. ἀλλὰ τοῖς εὐθὺς ἐξ ἀρχῆς σφραλεῖσι καὶ διαμαρτάνουσι τῆς ὀρθῆς ὁδοῦ τοιαῦτά τε ληρεῖν ἀναγκαῖον ἔστι καὶ προσέτι τῶν χρησιμωτάτων εἰς τὴν τέχνην παραλιπεῖν τὴν ζήτησιν.

117 Ἦδέως δ' ἂν ἐνταῦθα τοῦ λόγου γεγονῶς ἠρόμην τοὺς ὀμιλῆσαι φάσκοντας αὐτὸν ἐπὶ πλείστον τοῖς ἐκ τοῦ περιπάτου φιλοσόφοις, εἰ γινώσκουσιν, ὅσα περὶ τοῦ κεκρᾶσθαι τὰ σώμαθ' ἡμῶν ἐκ θερμοῦ καὶ ψυχροῦ καὶ ξηροῦ καὶ ὑγροῦ πρὸς Ἀριστοτέλους εἴρηται τε καὶ ἀποδέδεικται, καὶ ὡς τὸ θερμὸν ἐν αὐτοῖς ἔστι τὸ δραστικώτατον καὶ ὡς τῶν ζῶων ὅσα μὲν θερμότερα φύσει, ταῦτα πάντως ἔναιμα, τὰ δ' ἐπὶ πλεον ψυχρότερα πάντως ἄναιμα καὶ διὰ τοῦτο τοῦ χειμῶνος ἀργὰ καὶ ἀκίνητα κεῖται φωλεύοντα δίκην νεκρῶν. εἴρηται δὲ καὶ περὶ τῆς χροιάς τοῦ αἵματος οὐκ Ἀριστοτέλει μόνον, ἀλλὰ καὶ Πλάτωνι. καὶ ἡμεῖς νῦν, ὅπερ ἤδη καὶ πρόσθεν εἶπον, ἢ οὐ τὰ καλῶς ἀποδεδειγμένα τοῖς παλαιοῖς λέγειν προὔθεμεθα, μήτε τῇ γνώμῃ μήτε τῇ λέξει τοὺς ἀνδρας ἐκείνους ὑπερβαλέσθαι δυνάμενοι· τὰ δ' ἦτοι χωρὶς ἀποδείξεως ὡς ἐναργῆ πρὸς αὐτὴν εἰρημένα διὰ τὸ μηδ' ὑπονοῆσαι μοχθηροῦς ὡς τῶς ἔσεσθαι τινὰς σοφιστὰς, οἱ καταφρονήσουσι τῆς ἐν αὐτοῖς ἀληθείας, ἢ καὶ παραλελειμμένα τελῶς ὑπ' ἐκείνων ἀξιοῦμεν εὐρίσκειν τε καὶ ἀποδεικνύναι.

118 Περὶ δὲ τῆς τῶν χυμῶν γενέσεως οὐκ οἶδ', εἰ ἔχει τις ἕτερον προσθεῖναι σοφώτερον ὧν Ἰπποκράτης εἶπε καὶ Ἀριστοτέλης καὶ Πραξαγόρας καὶ Φιλότημος καὶ ἄλλοι πολλοὶ τῶν παλαιῶν. ἀποδέδεικται γὰρ ἐκείνοις τοῖς ἀνδράσι ἀλλοιουμένης τῆς τροφῆς ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶν ὑπὸ τῆς ἐμφύτου θερμότητος αἷμα μὲν ὑπὸ τῆς συμμετρίας τῆς κατ' αὐτὴν, οἱ δ' ἄλλοι χυμοὶ διὰ τὰς ἀμετρίας γινόμενοι· καὶ τούτῳ τῷ λόγῳ πάνθ' ὁμολογεῖ τὰ φαινόμενα. καὶ γὰρ τῶν ἐδεσμάτων ὅσα μὲν ἔστι θερμότερα φύσει, χολωδέστερα, τὰ δὲ ψυχρότερα φλεγματικώτερα· καὶ τῶν ἡλικιῶν ὡσαύτως χολωδέστερα ἢ αἰ θερμότερα φύσει, φλεγματικώτερα δ' αἰ ψυχρότερα· καὶ τῶν ἐπιτηδευμάτων δὲ καὶ τῶν χωρῶν καὶ τῶν ὠρῶν καὶ πολὺ δὴ πρότερον ἔτι τῶν φύσεων αὐτῶν αἰ μὲν ψυχρότεροι φλεγματικώτεροι, χολωδέστεροι δ' αἰ θερμότεροι· καὶ νοσημάτων τὰ μὲν ψυχρὰ τοῦ φλέγματος ἔκγονα, τὰ δὲ θερμὰ τῆς ξανθῆς χολῆς· καὶ ὅλως οὐδὲν ἔστιν εὐρεῖν τῶν πάντων, ὃ μὴ τούτῳ τῷ λόγῳ μαρτυρεῖ. πῶς δ' οὐ μέλλει; διὰ γὰρ τὴν ἐκ τῶν τεττάρων ποιᾶν κρᾶσιν ἐκάστου τῶν μορίων ὡδί πως ἐνεργούντος ἀνάγκη πᾶσα καὶ διὰ τὴν βλάβην αὐτῶν ἢ διαφθεῖρεσθαι τελῶς ἢ ἐμποδίζεσθαι γε τὴν ἐνέργειαν καὶ οὕτω νοσεῖν τὸ ζῶον ἢ

Pg 178

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 180

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 182

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 184

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

ὄλον ἢ κατὰ τὰ μόρια.

119 Καὶ τὰ πρῶτά γε καὶ γενικώτατα νοσήματα τέτταρα τὸν ἀριθμὸν ὑπάρχει θερμότητι καὶ ψυχρότητι καὶ ξηρότητι καὶ ὑγρότητι διαφέροντα. τοῦτο δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ὁμολογεῖ καίτοι μὴ βουλόμενος. ὅταν γὰρ ἐν τοῖς πυρετοῖς χεῖρους τῶν σιτιῶν τὰς πέψεις γίνεσθαι λέγη, μὴ διότι τῆς ἐμφύτου || θερμασίας ἢ συμμετρία διέφθαρται, καθάπερ οἱ πρόσθεν ὑπελάμβανον, ἀλλ' ὅτι περιστέλλεσθαι καὶ τρίβειν ἢ γαστήρ οὐχ ὁμοίως δύναται βεβλαμμένη τὴν ἐνέργειαν, ἐρέσθαι δίκαιον αὐτόν, ὑπὸ τίνος ἢ τῆς γαστρὸς ἐνέργεια βέβλαπται.

120 Γενομένου γὰρ, εἰ τύχοι, βουβῶνος ἐπὶ προσπταίσματι, πρὶν μὲν πυρέξει τὸν ἄνθρωπον, οὐκ ἂν χεῖρον ἢ γαστήρ πέψειεν· οὐ γὰρ ἰκανὸν ἦν οὐδέτερον αὐτῶν οὐθ' ὁ βουβῶν οὔτε τὸ ἔλκος ἐμποδίσει τι καὶ βλάψαι τὴν ἐνέργειαν τῆς κοιλίας· εἰ δὲ πυρέξειεν, εὐθύς μὲν αἱ πέψεις γίνονται χεῖρους, εὐθύς δὲ καὶ τὴν ἐνέργειαν τῆς γαστρὸς βεβλάφθαι φάμεν ὀρθῶς λέγοντες. ἀλλ' ὑπὸ τίνος ἐβλάβη, προσθεῖναι χρὴ τῷ λόγῳ. τὸ μὲν γὰρ ἔλκος οὐχ οἶόν τ' ἦν αὐτὴν βλάπτειν, ὡσπερ οὐδ' ὁ βουβῶν· ἢ γὰρ ἂν ἔβλαψε καὶ πρὸ τοῦ πυρετοῦ. εἰ δὲ μὴ ταῦτα, δῆλον, ὡς ἢ τῆς θερμασίας πλεονεξία. δύο γὰρ ταῦτα προσεγένετο τῷ βουβῶνι, ἢ τῆς κατὰ τὰς ἀρτηρίας τε καὶ τὴν καρδίαν κινήσεως ἀλλοίωσις καὶ ἢ τῆς κατὰ φύσιν θερμασίας πλεονεξία. ἀλλ' ἢ μὲν τῆς κινήσεως ἀλλοίωσις οὐ μόνον οὐδὲν βλάψει τὴν ἐνέργειαν τῆς γαστρὸς, ἀλλὰ καὶ προσωφελήσει κατ' ἐκεῖνα τῶν ζῶων, ἐν οἷς εἰς τὴν πέψιν ὑπέθετο πλεῖστον δύνασθαι τὸ διὰ τῶν ἀρτηριῶν εἰς τὴν κοιλίαν ἐμπύπτον πνεῦμα. διὰ λοιπὴν οὖν ἔτι καὶ μόνην τὴν ἄμετρον θερμασίαν ἢ βλάβη τῆς ἐνεργείας τῆ γαστρῆς. τὸ μὲν γὰρ πνεῦμα σφοδρότερόν τε καὶ συνεχέστερον καὶ πλεον ἐμπύπτει νῦν ἢ πρότερον. ὥστε ταύτη μὲν μᾶλλον πέψει τὰ διὰ τὸ πνεῦμα καλῶς πέττοντα ζῶα, διὰ λοιπὴν δ' ἔτι τὴν παρὰ φύσιν θερμασίαν ἀπεπτῆσει. τὸ γὰρ καὶ τῷ πνεύματι φάναι τι' ὑπάρχειν ἰδιότητα, καθ' ἣν πέττει, κἄπειτα ταύτην πυρεττόντων διαφθείρεσθαι καθ' ἕτερον τρόπον ἐστὶν ὁμολογήσει τὸ ἄτοπον. ἐρωτηθέντες γὰρ αὐθις, ὑπὸ τίνος ἠλλοιώθη τὸ πνεῦμα, μόνην ἔξουσις ἀποκρίνεσθαι τὴν παρὰ φύσιν θερμασίαν καὶ μάλιστ' ἐπὶ τοῦ κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν· οὐδὲ γὰρ πλησιάζει κατ' οὐδὲν τοῦτο τῷ βουβῶνι.

121 Καίτοι τί τῶν ζῶων ἐκεῖνων, ἐν οἷς ἢ τοῦ πνεύματος ἰδιότης μέγα δύναται, μνημονεύω, παρὸν ἐπ' ἀνθρώποις, ἐν οἷς ἢ οὐδὲν ἢ παντάπασιν ἀμυλδρόν τι καὶ μικρὸν ὠφελεῖ, ποιῆσθαι τὸν λόγον; ἀλλ' ὅτι μὲν ἐν τοῖς πυρετοῖς οὗτοι κακῶς πέττουσιν, ὁμολογεῖ καὶ αὐτὸς καὶ τὴν γ' αἰτίαν προστιθεὶς βεβλάφθαι φησὶ τῆς γαστρὸς τὴν ἐνέργειαν. οὐ μὴν ἄλλην γέ τινα πρόφασιν τῆς βλάβης εἰπεῖν ἔχει πλην τῆς παρὰ φύσιν θερμασίας. ἀλλ' εἰ βλάπτει τὴν ἐνέργειαν ἢ παρὰ φύσιν θερμασία μὴ κατὰ τὴν συμβεβηκός, ἀλλὰ διὰ τὴν αὐτῆς οὐσίαν τε καὶ δύναμιν, ἐκ τῶν πρώτων ἂν εἶη νοσημάτων· καὶ μὴν οὐκ ἐνδέχεται τῶν πρώτων μὲν εἶναι νοσημάτων τὴν ἄμετριαν τῆς θερμασίας, τὴν δ' ἐνέργειαν ὑπὸ τῆς εὐκρασίας μὴ γίνεσθαι. οὐδὲ γὰρ δι' ἄλλο τι δυνατὸν γίνεσθαι τὴν δυσκρασίαν αἰτίαν τῶν πρώτων νοσημάτων ἀλλ' ἢ διὰ τὴν εὐκρασίαν διαφθειρομένην. τῷ γὰρ ὑπὸ ταύτης γίνεσθαι τὰς ἐνεργείας ἀνάγκη καὶ τὰς πρώτας αὐτῶν βλάβας διαφθειρομένης γίνεσθαι.

122 Ὅτι μὲν οὖν καὶ κατ' αὐτὸν τὸν Ἐρασίστρατον ἢ εὐκρασία τοῦ θερμοῦ τῶν ἐνεργειῶν αἰτία, τοῖς θεωρεῖν τὸ ἀκόλουθον δυναμένοις ἰκανῶς ἀποδεδεῖχθαι νομίζω. τούτου δ' ὑπάρχοντος ἡμῖν οὐδὲν ἔτι χαλεπὸν || ἐφ' ἐκάστης ἐνεργείας τῆ μὲν εὐκρασία τὸ βέλτιον ἐπεσθαι λέγειν, τῆ δὲ δυσκρασία τὰ χεῖρω. καὶ τοῖνυν εἴπερ ταῦθ' οὕτως ἔχει, τὸ μὲν αἷμα τῆς συμμέτρου θερμασίας, τὴν δὲ ξανθὴν χολὴν τῆς ἀμέτρου νομιστέον ὑπάρχειν ἔγγονον. οὕτω γὰρ καὶ ἡμῖν ἔν τε ταῖς θερμαῖς ἡλικίαις καὶ τοῖς θερμοῖς χωρίοις καὶ ταῖς ὥραις τοῦ ἔτους ταῖς θερμαῖς καὶ ταῖς θερμαῖς καταστάσεσιν, ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ ταῖς θερμαῖς κράσεσι τῶν ἀνθρώπων καὶ τοῖς ἐπιτηδεύμασι τε καὶ τοῖς διαιτήμασι καὶ τοῖς νοσήμασι τοῖς θερμοῖς εὐλόγως ἢ ξανθὴ χολὴ πλείστη φαίνεται γιγνομένη.

123 Τὸ δ' ἀπορεῖν, εἴτ' ἐν τοῖς σώμασι τῶν ἀνθρώπων ὁ χυμὸς οὗτος ἔχει τὴν γένεσιν εἴτ' ἐν τοῖς σιτίοις περιέχεται, μηδ' ὅτι τοῖς ὑγιαίνουσιν ἀμέμπτως, ὅταν ἀσιτήσωσι παρὰ τὸ ἔθος ὑπὸ τίνος περιστάσεως πραγμάτων ἀναγκασθέντες, πικρὸν μὲν τὸ στόμα γίνεται, χολώδη δὲ τὰ οὖρα, δάκνεται δ' ἢ γαστήρ, ἐωρακότος ἐστὶν ἀλλ' ὡσπερ ἐξαίφνης νῦν εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἐληλυθότος καὶ μήπω τὰ κατ' αὐτὸν φαινόμενα γινώσκοντος, ἐπεὶ τίς οὐκ οἶδεν, ὡς ἕκαστον τῶν ἐψομένων ἐπὶ πλέον ἀλυκώτερον μὲν τὸ πρῶτον, ὕστερον || δὲ πικρότερον γίνεται; κἂν εἰ τὸ μέλι βουληθείης αὐτὸ τὸ πάντων γλυκύτερον ἐπὶ πλεῖστον ἔψειν, ἀποδείξεις καὶ τοῦτο πικρότατον· ὁ γὰρ τοῖς ἄλλοις, ὅσα μὴ φύσει θερμά, παρὰ τῆς ἐψήσεως ἐγγίγνεται, τοῦτ' ἐκ φύσεως ὑπάρχει τῷ μέλιτι. διὰ τοῦτ' οὖν ἐψόμενον οὐ γίνεται γλυκύτερον· ὅσον γὰρ ἐχρήν εἶναι θερμότητος εἰς γένεσιν γλυκύτητος, ἀκριβῶς αὐτῷ τοῦτο πᾶν οἰκοθεν ὑπάρχει. ὁ τοῖνυν ἔξωθεν τοῖς ἐλλιπῶς θερμοῖς ἢ ὠφέλιμον, τοῦτ' ἐκείνῳ βλάβη τε καὶ ἀμετρία γίνεται καὶ διὰ τοῦτο θᾶπτον τῶν ἄλλων ἐψόμενον ἀποδείκνυται πικρὸν. δι' αὐτὸ δὲ τοῦτο καὶ τοῖς θερμοῖς φύσει καὶ τοῖς ἀκμάζουσιν εἰς χολὴν ἐτοίμως μεταβάλλεται. θερμῷ γὰρ θερμὸν πλησιάζον εἰς ἀμετρίαν κράσεως ἐτοίμως ἐξίσταται καὶ φθάνει χολὴ γιγνομένη, οὐχ αἷμα. δεῖται τοῖνυν ψυχρᾶς μὲν κράσεως ἀνθρώπου, ψυχρᾶς δ' ἡλικίας, ἵν' εἰς αἵματος ἄγῃται φύσιν. οὐκ οὐκ ἀπο τρόπου συνεβούλευσεν Ἴπποκράτης τοῖς φύσει πικροχόλοις μὴ προσφέρειν τὸ μέλι, ὡς ἂν θερμότερας || δηλονότι κράσεως ὑπάρχουσιν. οὕτω δὲ καὶ τοῖς νοσήμασι τοῖς πικροχόλοις πολέμιον εἶναι τὸ μέλι καὶ τῆ τῶν γερόντων ἡλικία φίλιον οὐχ Ἴπποκράτης μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ πάντες ἰατροὶ λέγουσιν, οἱ μὲν ἐκ τῆς φύσεως αὐτοῦ τὴν

Pg 186

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 188

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 190

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 192

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

δύναμιν ἐνδειξαμένης εὐρόντες, οἱ δ' ἐκ τῆς πείρας μόνης. οὐδὲ γὰρ οὐδὲ τοῖς ἀπὸ τῆς ἐμπειρίας ἰατροῖς ἕτερόν τι παρὰ ταῦτα τετήρηται γινόμενον, ἀλλὰ χρηστὸν μὲν γέροντι, νέῳ δ' οὐ χρηστὸν, καὶ τῷ μὲν φύσει πικροχόλῳ βλαβερόν, ὠφέλιμον δὲ τῷ φλεγματώδει· καὶ τῶν νοσημάτων ὡσαύτως τοῖς μὲν πικροχόλοις ἐχθρόν, τοῖς δὲ φλεγματώδεσι φίλιον· ἐνὶ δὲ λόγῳ τοῖς μὲν θερμοῖς σώμασιν ἢ διὰ φύσιν ἢ διὰ νόσον ἢ δι' ἡλικίαν ἢ δι' ὥραν ἢ διὰ χῶραν ἢ δι' ἐπιτήδευμα χολῆς γεννητικόν, αἵματος δὲ τοῖς ἐναντίοις.

125 Καὶ μὴν οὐκ ἐνδέχεται ταῦτὸν ἔδεσμα τοῖς μὲν χολὴν γεννᾶν, τοῖς δ' αἷμα μὴ οὐκ ἐν τῷ σώματι τῆς γενέσεως αὐτῶν ἐπιτελουμένης. εἰ γὰρ δὴ οἴκοθεν γε καὶ παρ' ἑαυτοῦ τῶν ἔδεσμάτων ἕκαστον ἔχον καὶ οὐκ ἐν τοῖς τῶν ζῶων σώμασι || μεταβαλλόμενον ἐγέννα τὴν χολὴν, ἐν ἅπασιν ἂν ὁμοίως αὐτὴν τοῖς σώμασιν ἐγέννα καὶ τὸ μὲν πικρὸν ἔξω γενομένον ἦν ἂν οἶμαι χολῆς ποιητικόν, εἰ δὲ τι γλυκὺ καὶ χρηστὸν, οὐκ ἂν οὐδὲ τὸ βραχυτάτου ἐξ αὐτοῦ χολῆς ἐγεννᾶτο. καὶ μὴν οὐ τὸ μέλι μόνον, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἕκαστον τῶν γλυκέων τοῖς προειρημένοις σώμασι τοῖς δι' ὀτιοῦν τῶν εἰρημένων θερμοῖς οὖσιν εἰς χολὴν ἐτοιμῶς ἐξίσταται.

Καίτοι ταῦτ' οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ἐξηγῆσθαι εἰπεῖν οὐ προελόμενος ἀλλ' ὑπ' αὐτῆς τοῦ λόγου τῆς ἀκολουθίας ἀναγκασθεῖς. εἴρηται δ' ἐπὶ πλεῖστον ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν Ἀριστοτέλει τε καὶ Πραξαγόρῃ τὴν Ἱπποκράτους καὶ Πλάτωνος γνώμην ὀρθῶς ἐξηγησαμένοις.

IX

126 Μὴ τοίνυν ὡς ἀποδείξεις ὑφ' ἡμῶν εἰρησθαι νομίζειν τὰ τοιαῦτα μᾶλλον ἢ περὶ τῆς τῶν ἄλλως γινωσκόντων ἀναισθησίας ἐνδείξεις, οἱ μὴδὲ τὰ πρὸς ἀπάντων ὁμολογούμενα καὶ καθ' ἑκάστην ἡμέραν φαινόμενα γινώσκουσιν· τὰς δ' ἀποδείξεις αὐτῶν τὰς κατ' ἐπιστήμην ἐξ ἐκείνων χρῆ λαμβάνειν τῶν ἀρχῶν, ὧν ἤδη καὶ πρόσθεν || εἶπομεν, ὡς τὸ δρᾶν καὶ πάσχειν εἰς ἄλληλα τοῖς σώμασιν ὑπάρχει κατὰ τὸ θερμὸν καὶ ψυχρὸν καὶ ξηρὸν καὶ ὑγρὸν. καὶ εἴτε φλέβας εἴθ' ἦπαρ εἴτ' ἄρτηρας εἴτε καρδίαν εἴτε κοιλίαν εἴτ' ἄλλο τι μῦρον ἐνεργεῖν τις φήσειεν ἠντινοῦν ἐνέργειαν, ἀφύκτοις ἀνάγκαις ἀναγκασθήσεται διὰ τὴν ἐκ τῶν τεττάρων ποιᾶν κρᾶσιν ὁμολογήσαι τὴν ἐνέργειαν ὑπάρχειν αὐτῷ. διὰ τί γὰρ ἡ γαστήρ περιστέλλεται τοῖς σιτίοις, διὰ τί δ' αἱ φλέβες αἷμα γεννῶσι, παρὰ τῶν Ἑρασιστρατείων ἐδεόμην ἀκοῦσαι. τὸ γὰρ ὅτι περιστέλλεται μόνον αὐτὸ καθ' ἑαυτὸ γινώσκειν οὐδέπω χρηστὸν, εἰ μὴ καὶ τὴν αἰτίαν εἰδείημεν· οὕτω γὰρ ἂν οἶμαι καὶ τὰ σφάλματα θεραπεύσαιμεν. οὐ μέλει, φασίν, ἡμῖν οὐδὲ πολυπραγμονοῦμεν ἔτι τὰς τοιαύτας αἰτίας· ὑπὲρ ἰατρὸν γὰρ εἰσι καὶ τῷ φυσικῷ προσήκουσι. πότερον οὖν οὐδ' ἀντερεῖτε τῷ φάσκοντι τὴν μὲν εὐκρασίαν τὴν κατὰ φύσιν αἰτίαν εἶναι τῆς ἐνεργείας ἐκάστῳ τῶν ὀργάνων, τὴν δ' αὖ δυσκρασίαν νόσον τ ἤδη καλεῖσθαι καὶ πάντως ὑπ' αὐ||τῆς βλάβεσθαι τὴν ἐνέργειαν; ἢ πεισθήσεσθε ταῖς τῶν παλαιῶν ἀποδείξεσιν; ἢ τρίτου τι καὶ μέσου ἑκατέρου τούτων πράξετε μὴτ' ὡς ἀληθέσι τοῖς λόγοις ἐξ ἀνάγκης πειθόμενοι μὴτ' ἀντιλέγοντες ὡς ψευδέσιν, ἀλλ' ἀπορητικοὶ τινες ἐξείφνης καὶ Πυρρώνειοι γενήσεσθε; καὶ μὴν εἰ τοῦτο δράσετε, τὴν ἐμπειρίαν ἀναγκαῖον ὑμῖν προστήσασθαι. τῷ γὰρ ἂν ἔτι τρόπῳ καὶ τῶν ἰαμάτων εὐποροίητε τὴν οὐσίαν ἐκάστου τῶν νοσημάτων ἀγνοοῦντες; τί οὖν οὐκ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐμπειρικοὺς ὑμᾶς αὐτοὺς ἐκαλέσατε; τί δὲ πράγμαθ' ἡμῖν παρέχετε φυσικὰς ἐνεργείας ἐπαγγελλόμενοι ζητεῖν ἰάσεως ἔνεκεν; εἰ γὰρ ἀδύνατος ἡ γαστήρ ἐστὶ τινι περιστέλλεσθαι καὶ τρῖβειν, πῶς αὐτὴν εἰς τὸ κατὰ φύσιν ἐπανάξομεν ἀγνοοῦντες τὴν αἰτίαν τῆς ἀδυναμίας; ἐγὼ μὲν φημι τὴν μὲν ὑπερθερμασμένην ἐμψυκτέον ἡμῖν εἶναι, τὴν δ' ἐψυγμένην θερμαντέον· οὕτω δὲ καὶ τὴν ἐξηρασμένην ὑγραντέον, τὴν δ' ὑγρασμένην ξηραντέον.

128 ἀλλὰ καὶ || κατὰ συζυγίαν, εἰ θερμότερα τοῦ κατὰ φύσιν ἅμα καὶ ξηροτέρα τύχοι γεγεννημένη, κεφάλαιον εἶναι τῆς ἰάσεως ἐμψύχειν θ' ἅμα καὶ ὑγραίνειν· εἰ δ' αὖ ψυχροτέρα τε καὶ ὑγροτέρα, θερμαίνειν τε καὶ ξηραίνειν κάπῃ τῶν ἄλλων ὡσαύτως· οἱ δ' ἀπ' Ἑρασιστράτου τί ποτε καὶ πράξουσιν οὐδ' ὄλως ζητεῖν τῶν ἐνεργειῶν τὰς αἰτίας ὁμολογοῦντες; ὁ γὰρ τοι καρπὸς τῆς περὶ τῶν ἐνεργειῶν ζητήσεως οὗτός ἐστι, τὸ τὰς αἰτίας τῶν δυσκρασιῶν εἰδῶτα εἰς τὸ κατὰ φύσιν ἐπανάγειν αὐτάς, ὡς αὐτὸ γε μόνον τὸ γνῶναι τὴν ἐκάστου τῶν ὀργάνων ἐνέργειαν ἧτις ἐστὶν οὐπω χρηστὸν εἰς τὰς ἰάσεις.

129 Ἑρασίστρατος δέ μοι δοκεῖ καὶ αὐτὸ τοῦτ' ἀγνοεῖν, ὡς, ἧτις ἂν ἐν τῷ σώματι διάθεσις βλάβη τὴν ἐνέργειαν μὴ κατὰ τι συμβεβηκὸς ἀλλὰ πρῶτως τε καὶ καθ' ἑαυτήν, αὕτη τὸ νόσημά ἐστὶν αὐτό. πῶς οὖν ἔτι διαγνωστικός τε καὶ ἰατικός ἔσται τῶν νοσημάτων ἀγνοῶν ὄλως αὐτὰ τίνα τ' ἐστὶ καὶ πόσα καὶ ποῖα; κατὰ μὲν δὴ τὴν γαστέρα τό γε τοσοῦτον Ἑρασίστρατος ἠξίωσε ζητεῖσθαι τὸ πῶς πέττεται τὰ σιτία· || τὸ δ' ἧτις πρώτη τε καὶ ἀρχηγὸς αἰτία τούτου, πῶς οὐκ ἐπεσκέπατο; κατὰ δὲ τὰς φλέβας καὶ τὸ αἷμα καὶ αὐτὸ τὸ πῶς παρέλιπεν.

Ἄλλ' οὐθ' Ἱπποκράτης οὐτ' ἄλλος τις ὧν ὀλίγῳ πρόσθεν ἐμνημόνευσα φιλοσόφων ἢ ἰατρῶν ἄξιον ὦετ' εἶναι παραλιπεῖν· ἀλλὰ τὴν κατὰ φύσιν ἐν ἐκάστῳ ζῳῷ θερμασίαν εὐκρατόν τε καὶ μετρίως ὑγρὰν οὖσαν αἵματος εἶναί φασι γεννητικὴν καὶ δι' αὐτὸ γε τοῦτο καὶ τὸ αἷμα θερμὸν καὶ ὑγρὸν εἶναί φασι τῇ δυνάμει χυμόν, ὡσπερ τὴν ξανθὴν χολὴν θερμὴν καὶ ξηρὰν εἶναι, εἰ καὶ ὅτι μάλισθ' ὑγρὰ φαίνεται. διαφέρειν γὰρ αὐτοῖς δοκεῖ τὸ κατὰ φαντασίαν ὑγρὸν τοῦ κατὰ δύναμιν. ἢ τίς οὐκ οἶδεν, ὡς ἄλμη μὲν καὶ θάλαττα ταριχεύει τὰ κρέα καὶ ἄσχηπτα διαφυλάττει, τὸ δ' ἄλλο πᾶν ὕδωρ τὸ πότιμον ἐτοιμῶς διαφθείρει τε καὶ σήπει; τίς δ' οὐκ οἶδεν, ὡς ξανθῆς χολῆς ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ περιεχομένης πολλῆς ἀπαύστῳ δίψει συνεχόμεθα καὶ ὡς ἐμέσαντες αὐτὴν

Pg 194
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 196
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 198
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 200
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

130 εὐθὺς ἄδιψοι γιγνώμεθα μᾶλλον ἢ εἰ πάμπολυ ποτὸν προσηράμεθα; ἢ θερμὸς οὖν εὐλόγως ὁ χυμὸς οὗτος εἴρηται καὶ ξηρὸς κατὰ δύναμιν, ὥσπερ γε καὶ τὸ φλέγμα ψυχρὸν καὶ ὑγρὸν. ἐναργεῖς γὰρ καὶ περὶ τούτου πίστεις Ἴπποκράτει τε καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις εἴρηται παλαιοῖς.

Πρόδικος δ' ἐν τῷ περὶ φύσεως ἀνθρώπου γράμματι τὸ συγκεκριμένον καὶ οἶον ὑπερωπημένον ἐν τοῖς χυμοῖς ὀνομάζων φλέγμα παρὰ τὸ πεφλέχθαι τῇ λέξει μὲν ἐτέρως χρῆται, φυλάττει μέντοι τὸ πρᾶγμα κατὰ ταῦτο τοῖς ἄλλοις. τὴν δ' ἐν τοῖς ὀνόμασι τάνδρος τούτου καινοτομίαν ἰκανῶς ἐνδείκνυται καὶ Πλάτων. ἀλλὰ τοῦτο γε τὸ πρὸς ἀπάντων ἀνθρώπων ὀνομαζόμενον φλέγμα τὸ λευκὸν τὴν χροάν, ὃ βλένναν ὀνομάζει Πρόδικος, ὁ ψυχρὸς καὶ ὑγρὸς χυμὸς ἐστὶν οὗτος καὶ πλεῖστος τοῖς τε γέρουσι καὶ τοῖς ὀπωσθήποτε ψυγεῖσιν ἀθροίζεται καὶ οὐδεὶς οὐδὲ μαινόμενος ἂν ἄλλο τι ἢ ψυχρὸν καὶ ὑγρὸν εἴποι ἂν αὐτόν.

131 Ἄρ' οὖν θερμὸς μὲν τίς ἐστὶ καὶ ὑγρὸς χυμὸς καὶ θερμὸς καὶ ξηρὸς ἕτερος καὶ ὑγρὸς καὶ ψυχρὸς ἄλλος, οὐδεὶς δ' ἐστὶ ψυχρὸς καὶ ξηρὸς τὴν δύναμιν, ἀλλ' ἢ τετάρτη συζυγία τῶν κράσεων ἢ ἐν ἅπασιν τοῖς ἄλλοις ὑπάρχουσα μόνις τοῖς χυμοῖς οὐχ ὑπάρχει; καὶ μὴν ἢ γε μέλαινα χολὴ τοιοῦτός ἐστι χυμὸς, ὃν οἱ σωφρονοῦντες ἰατροὶ καὶ φιλόσοφοι πλεονεκτεῖν ἔφασαν τῶν μὲν ὠρῶν τοῦ ἔτους ἐν φθινοπώρῳ μάλιστα, τῶν δ' ἡλικιῶν ἐν ταῖς μετὰ τὴν ἀκμήν. οὕτω δὲ καὶ διαιτήματα καὶ χωρία καὶ καταστάσεις καὶ νόσους τινὰς ψυχρὰς καὶ ξηρὰς εἶναι φασιν· οὐ γὰρ δὴ χολὴν ἐν ταύτῃ μόνῃ τῇ συζυγίᾳ τὴν φύσιν εἶναι νομίζουσιν ἀλλ' ὥσπερ τὰς ἄλλας τρεῖς οὕτω καὶ τὴνδε διὰ πάντων ἐκτετάσθαι.

132 Ἡὺξάμην οὖν κἀνταῦθ' ἐρωτῆσαι δύνασθαι τὸν Ἐρασίστρατον, εἰ μὴδὲν ὄργανον ἢ τεχνικὴ φύσις ἐδημιούργησε καθαρτικὸν τοῦ τοιοῦτου χυμοῦ, ἀλλὰ τῶν μὲν οὖρων ἄρα τῆς διακρίσεως ἐστὶν ὄργανα δύο καὶ τῆς ξανθῆς χολῆς ἕτερον οὐ σμικρὸν, ὃ δὲ τούτων κακοθηέστερος χυμὸς ἀλάται διὰ παντός ἐν ταῖς φλεψὶν ἀναμειγμένους τῷ αἵματι. καίτοι “Δυσεντερίη,” φησὶ που Ἴπποκράτης, “ἦν ἀπὸ χολῆς μελαίνης ἀρξεται, θανάσιμον,” οὐ μὴν ἢ γ' ἀπὸ τῆς ξανθῆς χολῆς ἀρχομένη πάντως ὀλέθριος, ἀλλ' οἱ πλείους ἐξ αὐτῆς διασώζονται. τοσοῦτω κακοθηεστέρα τε καὶ δριμυτέρα τὴν δύναμιν ἢ μέλαινα χολὴ τῆς ξανθῆς ἐστὶν. ἄρ' οὖν οὐτε τῶν ἄλλων ἀνέγνω τι τῶν τοῦ Ἴπποκράτους γραμμάτων ὃ Ἐρασίστρατος οὐδὲν οὐτε τὸ περὶ φύσεως ἀνθρώπου βιβλίον, ἢ οὕτως ἀργῶς παρέλθοι τὴν περὶ τῶν χυμῶν ἐπίσκεψιν, ἢ γινώσκει μὲν, ἐκῶν δὲ παραλείπει καλλίστην τῆς τέχνης θεωρίαν; ἐχρῆν οὖν αὐτὸν μὴδὲ περὶ τοῦ σπληνὸς εἰρηκῆναι τι μὴδ' ἀσχημονεῖν ὑπὸ τῆς τεχνικῆς φύσεως ὄργανον τηλικούτου μάτην ἠγούμενον κατεσκευάσθαι. καὶ μὴν οὐχ Ἴπποκράτης μόνον ἢ Πλάτων, οὐδὲν τι χεῖρους Ἐρασιστράτου περὶ φύσιν ἄνδρες, ἐν τι τῶν καθαιρόντων τὸ αἷμα καὶ τοῦτ' εἶναι φασὶ τὸ σπλάγγνον, ἀλλὰ καὶ μυριοὶ σὺν αὐτοῖς ἄλλοι τῶν παλαιῶν ἰατρῶν τε καὶ φιλοσόφων, ὧν ἀπάντων προσποιησάμενος ὑπερφρονεῖν ὁ γενναῖος Ἐρασίστρατος οὐτ' ἀντεῖπεν οὐθ' ὄλως τῆς δόξης αὐτῶν ἐμνημόνευσε. καὶ μὴν ὅσοις 133 γε τὸ σῶμα θάλλει, τούτοις ὁ σπλὴν φθίνει, φησὶν Ἴπποκράτης, καὶ οἱ ἀπὸ τῆς ἢ ἐμπειρίας ὀρμώμενοι πάντες ὁμολογοῦσιν ἰατροί. καὶ ὅσοις γ' αὐτὸς μέγας καὶ ὑπουλός αὐξάνεται, τούτοις καταφθείρει τε καὶ κακόχυμα τὰ σώματα τίθησιν, ὡς καὶ τοῦτο πάλιν οὐχ Ἴπποκράτης μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ Πλάτων ἄλλοι τε πολλοὶ καὶ οἱ ἀπὸ τῆς ἐμπειρίας ὁμολογοῦσιν ἰατροί. καὶ οἱ ἀπὸ σπληνὸς δὲ κακοπραγούντος ἴκτεροι μελάντεροι καὶ τῶν ἔλκων αἰ οὐλαὶ μέλαιναί. καθόλου γάρ, ὅταν ἐνδεέστερον ἢ προσῆκεν εἰς ἑαυτὸν ἔλκη τὸν μελαγχολικὸν χυμὸν, ἀκάθαρτον μὲν τὸ αἷμα, κακόχρουν δὲ τὸ πᾶν γίνεταί σῶμα. πότε δ' ἐνδεέστερον ἔλκει; ἢ δῆλον ὅτι κακῶς διακείμενος; ὥσπερ οὖν τοῖς νεφροῖς ἐνεργείας οὔσης ἔλκειν τὰ οὖρα κακῶς ἔλκειν ὑπάρχει κακοπραγοῦσιν, οὕτω καὶ τῷ σπληνὶ ποιότητος μελαγχολικῆς ἔλκτικὴν ἐν ἑαυτῷ δύναμιν ἔχοντι σύμφυτον ἀρρωστησαντι ποτε ταύτην ἀναγκαῖον ἔλκειν κακῶς κἀν τῷδε παχύτερον ἤδη καὶ μελάντερον γίνεσθαι τὸ αἷμα.

134 Ταῦτ' οὖν ἅπαντα πρὸς τε τὰς διαγνώσεις τῶν νοσημάτων καὶ τὰς ἰάσεις μεγίστην παρεχόμενα χρεῖαν ἢ ὑπερεπήδησε τελέως ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος καὶ καταφρονεῖν προσεποίησατο τηλικούτων ἀνδρῶν ὃ μὴδὲ τῶν τυχόντων καταφρονῶν ἀλλ' αἰεὶ φιλοτίμως ἀντιλέγων ταῖς ἡλιθιωτάταις δόξαις. ὧ καὶ δῆλον, ὡς οὐδὲν ἔχων οὐτ' ἀντιπεῖν τοῖς πρεσβυτέροις ὑπὲρ ὧν ἀπεφῆναντο περὶ σπληνὸς ἐνεργείας τε καὶ χρεῖας οὐτ' αὐτὸς ἐξευρίσκων τι καινὸν εἰς τὸ μὴδὲν ὄλως εἰπεῖν ἀφίκετο. ἀλλ' ἡμεῖς γε πρῶτον μὲν ἐκ τῶν αἰτίων, οἷς ἅπαντα διοικεῖται τὰ κατὰ τὰς φύσεις, τοῦ θερμοῦ λέγω καὶ ψυχροῦ καὶ ξηροῦ καὶ ὑγροῦ, δεύτερον δ' ἐξ αὐτῶν τῶν ἐναργῶς φαινομένων κατὰ τὸ σῶμα ψυχρὸν καὶ ξηρὸν εἶναι τινα χρῆναι χυμὸν ἀπεδείξαμεν. ἐξῆς δ', ὅτι καὶ μελαγχολικὸς οὗτος ὑπάρχει καὶ τὸ καθαῖρον αὐτὸν σπλάγγνον ὃ σπλὴν ἐστὶν, διὰ βραχέων ὡς ἐνὶ μάλιστα τῶν τοῖς παλαιοῖς ἀποδεδειγμένων ἀναμνήσαντες ἐπὶ τὸ λείπον ἔτι τοῖς παροῦσι λόγοις ἀφιεξόμεθα.

135 Τί δ' ἂν εἴη λείπον ἄλλο γ' ἢ ἐξηγήσασθαι σαφῶς, οἷόν τι βούλονται τε ἢ καὶ ἀποδεικνύουσι περὶ τὴν τῶν χυμῶν γένεσιν οἱ παλαιοὶ συμβαίνειν. ἐναργέστερον δ' ἂν γνωσθεῖη διὰ παραδείγματος. οἶνον δὴ μοι νόει γλεύκινον οὐ πρὸ πολλοῦ τῶν σταφυλῶν ἐκτεθλιμμένον ζέοντά τε καὶ ἀλλοιούμενον ὑπὸ τῆς ἐν αὐτῷ θερμοσίας· ἔπειτα κατὰ τὴν αὐτοῦ μεταβολὴν δύο γεννώμενα περιττώματα τὸ μὲν κουφότερον τε καὶ ἀερωδέστερον, τὸ δὲ βαρύτερον τε καὶ γεωδέστερον, ὧν τὸ μὲν ἄνθος, οἶμαι, τὸ δὲ τρύγα καλοῦσι. τούτων τῷ μὲν ἐτέρῳ τὴν ξανθὴν χολὴν, τῷ δ' ἐτέρῳ τὴν μέλαιναν εἰκάζων οὐκ ἂν ἀμάρτοις, οὐ τὴν αὐτὴν ἐχόντων ιδεάν τῶν χυμῶν τούτων ἐν τῷ κατὰ φύσιν διοικεῖσθαι τὸ ζῶον, οἶαν καὶ παρὰ φύσιν ἔχοντος ἐπιφαίνονται

Pg 202
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 204
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 206
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 208
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

πολλάκις, ἡ μὲν γὰρ ξανθὴ λεκιθώδης γίννεται· καὶ γὰρ ὀνομάζουσιν οὕτως αὐτήν, ὅτι ταῖς τῶν ὠν λεκίθοις ὁμοιοῦται κατὰ τε χροῖαν καὶ πάχος. ἡ δ' αὖ μέλαινα κακοηθέστερα μὲν πολὺ καὶ αὕτη τῆς κατὰ φύσιν· ὄνομα δ' οὐδὲν ἴδιον κεῖται τῷ τοιοῦτῳ χυμῷ, πλὴν εἴ ποῦ τινες ἢ ξυστικὸν ἢ ὀξώδη κεκλήκασι αὐτόν, ὅτι καὶ ἀριμὲς ὁμοίως ὄξει γίννεται καὶ || ζυεῖ γὰρ τὸ σῶμα τοῦ ζώου καὶ τὴν γῆν, εἰ κατ' αὐτῆς ἐκχυθείη, καὶ τινα μετὰ πομφολύγων οἶον ζύμωσιν τε καὶ ζέσιν ἐργάζεται, σηπεδόνας ἐπικτήτου προσελθούσης ἐκείνῳ τῷ κατὰ φύσιν ἔχοντι χυμῷ τῷ μέλανι. καὶ μοι δοκοῦσιν οἱ πλεῖστοι τῶν παλαιῶν ἰατρῶν αὐτὸ μὲν τὸ κατὰ φύσιν ἔχον τοῦ τοιοῦτου χυμοῦ καὶ διαχωροῦν κάτω καὶ πολλάκις ἐπιπολάζον ἄνω μέλαινα καλεῖν χυμόν, οὐ μέλαιναν χολήν, τὸ δ' ἐκ συγκαύσεως τινος καὶ σηπεδόνας εἰς τὴν ὄξειαν μεθιστάμενον ποιότητα μέλαιναν ὀνομάζειν χολήν. ἀλλὰ περὶ μὲν τῶν ὀνομάτων οὐ χρὴ διαφέρεσθαι, τὸ δ' ἀληθὲς ὧδ' ἔχον εἶδέναι.

Κατὰ τὴν τοῦ αἵματος γένεσιν ὅσον ἂν ἰκανῶς παχὺ καὶ γεῶδες ἐκ τῆς τῶν σιτίων φύσεως ἐμφερόμενον τῇ τροφῇ μὴ δέξεται καλῶς τὴν ἐκ τῆς ἐμφύτου θερμασίας ἀλλοίωσιν, ὁ σπλὴν εἰς ἑαυτὸν ἔλκει τοῦτο. τὸ δ' ὀπτηθέν, ὡς ἂν τις εἴποι, καὶ συγκαυθὲν τῆς τροφῆς, εἴη δ' ἂν τοῦτο τὸ θερμότατον ἐν αὐτῇ καὶ γλυκύτατον, οἶον τό τε μέλι καὶ ἡ πιμελή, ξανθὴ γενόμενον χολὴ διὰ τῶν χοληδόχων ὀνομαζομένων ἀγγείων ἐκκαθαίρεται. || λεπτόν δ' ἐστὶ τοῦτο καὶ ὑγρὸν καὶ ῥυτὸν οὐχ ὡσπερ ὅταν ὀπτηθὲν ἐσχάτως ξανθὸν καὶ πυρῶδες καὶ παχὺ γέννηται ταῖς τῶν ὠν ὁμοίον λεκίθοις. τοῦτο μὲν γὰρ ἤδη παρὰ φύσιν· θάτερον δὲ τὸ πρότερον εἰρημένον κατὰ φύσιν ἐστίν· ὡσπερ γὰρ καὶ τοῦ μέλανος χυμοῦ τὸ μὲν μήπω τὴν οἶον ζέσιν τε καὶ ζύμωσιν τῆς γῆς ἐργαζόμενον κατὰ φύσιν ἐστὶ, τὸ δ' εἰς τοιαύτην μεθιστάμενον ἰδέαν τε καὶ δύναμιν ἤδη παρὰ φύσιν, ὡς ἂν τὴν ἐκ τῆς συγκαύσεως τοῦ παρὰ φύσιν θερμοῦ προσειληφὸς δριμύτητα καὶ οἶον τέφρα τις ἤδη γεγονός. ὧδέ πως καὶ ἡ κεκαυμένη τρυξ τῆς ἀκαύστου διήνεγκε. θερμόν γὰρ τι χρῆμα αὕτη γ' ἰκανῶς ἐστίν, ὥστε καίειν τε καὶ τήκειν καὶ διαφθεῖρειν τὴν σάρκα. τῇ δ' ἑτέρα τῇ μήπω κεκαυμένη τοὺς ἰατροὺς ἔστιν εὐρεῖν χρωμένους εἰς ὅσαπερ καὶ τῇ γῇ τῇ καλουμένην κεραμίτιδι καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις, ὅσα ξηραίνειν θ' ἅμα καὶ ψύχειν πέφυκεν.

Εἰς τὴν τῆς οὕτω συγκαυθείσης μελαίνης χολῆς ἰδέαν καὶ ἡ λεκιθώδης ἐκείνη μεθίσταται πολλάκις, ὅταν καὶ αὕτη ποθ' οἶον ὀπτηθεῖσα τύχη πυρῶδει θερμασία. τὰ δ' ἄλλα || τῶν χολῶν εἶδη σύμπαντα τὰ μὲν ἐκ τῆς τῶν εἰρημένων κράσεως γίννεται, τὰ δ' οἶον ὁδοὶ τινὲς εἰσι τῆς τούτων γενέσεώς τε καὶ εἰς ἄλληλα μεταβολῆς. διαφέρουσι δὲ τῷ τὰς μὲν ἀκράτους εἶναι καὶ μόνας, τὰ δ' οἶον ὀρροῖς τισιν ἐξυγρασμένας. ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν ὀρροὶ τῶν χυμῶν ἅπαντες περιπτώματα καὶ καθαρὸν αὐτῶν εἶναι δεῖται τοῦ ζώου τὸ σῶμα. τῶν δ' εἰρημένων χυμῶν ἐστὶ τις χρεῖα τῇ φύσει καὶ τοῦ παχέος καὶ τοῦ λεπτοῦ καὶ καθαίρεται πρὸς τε τοῦ σπληνὸς καὶ τῆς ἐπὶ τῷ ἥπατι κύστεως τὸ αἷμα καὶ ἀποτίθεται τοσοῦτόν τε καὶ τοιοῦτον ἑκατέρου μέρος, ὅσον καὶ οἶον, εἴπερ εἰς ὄλον ἠνέχθη τοῦ ζώου τὸ σῶμα, βλάβην ἂν τιν' εἰργάσατο. τὸ γὰρ ἰκανῶς παχὺ καὶ γεῶδες καὶ τελῶς διαπεφευγὸς τὴν ἐν τῷ ἥπατι μεταβολὴν ὁ σπλὴν εἰς ἑαυτὸν ἔλκει· τὸ δ' ἄλλο τὸ μετρίως παχὺ σὺν τῷ κατειργάσθῃ πάντῃ φέρεται. δεῖται γὰρ ἐν πολλοῖς τοῦ ζώου μορίοις παχύτητος τινος τὸ αἷμα καθάπερ οἶμαι καὶ τῶν || ἐμφερομένων ἰνῶν. καὶ εἴρηται μὲν καὶ Πλάτωνι περὶ τῆς χρεῖας αὐτῶν, εἰρήσεται δὲ καὶ ἡμῖν ἐν ἐκείνοις τοῖς γράμμασιν, ἐν οἷς ἂν τὰς χρεῖας τῶν μορίων διερχώμεθα· δεῖται δ' οὐχ ἥκιστα καὶ τοῦ ξανθοῦ χυμοῦ τοῦ μήπω πυρῶδους ἐσχάτως γεγεννημένου τὸ αἷμα καὶ τίς αὐτῷ καὶ ἡ παρὰ τοῦδε χρεῖα, δι' ἐκείνων εἰρήσεται.

Φλέγματος δ' οὐδὲν ἐποίησεν ἡ φύσις ὄργανον καθαρτικόν, ὅτι ψυχρὸν καὶ ὑγρὸν ἐστὶ καὶ οἶον ἡμίπεπτός τις τροφή. δεῖται τοίνυν οὐ κενουῖσθαι τὸ τοιοῦτον ἀλλ' ἐν τῷ σώματι μένον ἀλλοιοῦσθαι. τὸ δ' ἐξ ἐγκεφάλου καταρρέον περίττωμα τάχα μὲν ἂν οὐδὲ φλέγμα τις ὀρθῶς ἀλλὰ βλένναν τε καὶ κόρυζαν, ὡσπερ οὖν καὶ ὀνομάζεται, καλοῖη. εἰ δὲ μή, ἀλλ' ὅτι γὰρ τῆς τούτου κενώσεως ὀρθῶς ἡ φύσις προὔνοησεν, καὶ τοῦτ' ἐν τοῖς περὶ χρεῖας μορίων εἰρήσεται. καὶ γὰρ οὖν καὶ τὸ κατὰ τε τὴν γαστέρα καὶ τὰ ἔντερα συνιστάμενον φλέγμα ὅπως ἂν ἐκκενωθῇ καὶ αὐτὸ τάχιστα τε καὶ κάλλιστα, τὸ παρεσκευασμένον τῇ φύσει μηχανήμα δι' ἐκείνων εἰρήσεται καὶ αὐτὸ τῶν ὑπομνημάτων. ὅσον οὖν ἐμφέρεται ταῖς φλεψὶ φλέγμα χρήσιμον ὑπάρχον τοῖς ζώοις, οὐδεμιᾶς δεῖται κενώσεως. προσέχειν δὲ χρὴ κἀνταῦθα τὸν νοῦν καὶ γινώσκειν, ὡσπερ τῶν χολῶν ἑκατέρας τὸ μὲν τι χρήσιμόν ἐστὶ καὶ κατὰ φύσιν τοῖς ζώοις, τὸ δ' ἀχρηστόν τε καὶ παρὰ φύσιν, οὕτω καὶ τοῦ φλέγματος, ὅσον μὲν ἂν ἢ γλυκύ, χρηστὸν εἶναι τοῦτο τῷ ζώῳ καὶ κατὰ φύσιν, ὅσον δ' ὄξυν καὶ ἄλμυρον ἐγένετο, τὸ μὲν ὄξυν τελῶς ἠπεπτήσθαι, τὸ δ' ἄλμυρον διασεσῆσθαι. τελείαν δ' ἀπεψίαν φλέγματος ἀκούειν χρὴ τὴν τῆς δευτέρας πέψεως δηλονότι τῆς ἐν φλεψίν· οὐ γὰρ δι' τῆς γὰρ πρώτης τῆς κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν· ἢ οὐδ' ἂν ἐγεγεννητο τὴν ἀρχὴν χυμός, εἰ καὶ ταύτην διεπεφεύγει.

Ταῦτ' ἄρκειν μοι δοκεῖ περὶ γενέσεώς τε καὶ διαφθορᾶς χυμῶν ὑπομνήματ' εἶναι τῶν Ἱπποκράτει τε καὶ Πλάτωνι καὶ Ἀριστοτέλει καὶ Πραξαγόρα καὶ Διοκλεῖ καὶ πολλοῖς ἄλλοις τῶν παλαιῶν εἰρημένων· οὐ γὰρ ἐδικαίωσα πάντα μεταφέρειν εἰς τόνδε τὸν λόγον τὰ τελῶς ἐκείνοις γεγραμμένα. τοσοῦτον δὲ μόνον ὑπὲρ ἐκάστου εἶπον, ὅσον ἐξορμήσει τε τοὺς || ἐντυγχάνοντας, εἰ μὴ παντάπασιν εἰεν σκαιοί, τοῖς τῶν παλαιῶν ὁμιλῆσαι γράμμασι καὶ τὴν εἰς τὸ ῥᾶον αὐτοῖς συνεῖναι βοήθειαν παρέξει. γέγραπται δὲ πού καὶ δι' ἑτέρου λόγου περὶ τῶν κατὰ Πραξαγόραν τὸν Νικάρχου χυμῶν. εἰ γὰρ καὶ ὅτι μάλιστα δέκα ποιεῖ χωρὶς τοῦ αἵματος, ἐνδέκατος γὰρ ἂν εἴη χυμὸς αὐτὸ τὸ αἷμα, τῆς Ἱπποκράτους οὐκ ἀποχωρεῖ διδασκαλίας, ἀλλ' εἰς εἶδη τινα

καὶ διαφορὰς τέμνει τοὺς ὑπ' ἐκείνου πρώτου πάντων ἅμα ταῖς οἰκείαις ἀποδείξεσιν εἰρημένους χυμούς.

[Transliteration](#)

Ἐπαινεῖν μὲν οὖν χρὴ τοὺς τ' ἐξηγησαμένους τὰ καλῶς εἰρημένα καὶ τοὺς εἶ τι παραλέλειπται προστιθέντας· οὐ γὰρ οἶόν τε τὸν αὐτὸν ἄρξασθαι τε καὶ τελειῶσαι· μέμφεσθαι δὲ τοὺς οὕτως ἀταλαιπώρους, ὡς μηδὲν ὑπομένειν μαθεῖν τῶν ὀρθῶς εἰρημένων, καὶ τοὺς εἰς τοσοῦτον φιλοτίμους, ὥστ' ἐπιθυμία νεωτέρων δογμάτων ἀεὶ πανουργεῖν τι καὶ σοφίζεσθαι, τὰ μὲν ἐκόντας παραλιπόντας, ὡσπερ

142 Ἐρασίστρατος ἐπὶ τῶν χυμῶν ἐποίησε, τὰ δὲ πα||νούργως ἀντιλέγοντας, ὡσπερ αὐτός θ' οὗτος καὶ ἄλλοι πολλοὶ τῶν νεωτέρων.

Ἄλλ' οὗτος μὲν ὁ λόγος ἐνταυθοῖ τελευτάτω, τὸ δ' ὑπόλοιπον ἅπαν ἐν τῷ τρίτῳ προσθήσω.

Γ

Pg 222

[Translation](#)

[Transliteration](#)

I

Ἵτι μὲν οὖν ἡ θρέψις ἀλλοιουμένου τε καὶ ὁμοιουμένου γίνεται τοῦ τρέφοντος τῷ τρεφομένῳ καὶ ὡς ἐν ἐκάστῳ τῶν τοῦ ζώου μορίων ἐστὶ τις δύναμις, ἣν ἀπὸ τῆς ἐνεργείας ἀλλοιωτικὴν μὲν κατὰ γένος, ὁμοιωτικὴν δὲ καὶ θρεπτικὴν κατ' εἶδος ὀνομάζομεν, ἐν τῷ πρόσθεν δεδήλωται λόγῳ. τὴν δ' εὐπορίαν τῆς ὕλης, ἣν τροφήν ἐαυτῷ ποιεῖται τὸ τρεφόμενον, ἐξ ἑτέρας τινὸς ἔχειν ἐδείκνυτο δυνάμει ἐπισπᾶσθαι πεφυκίας τὸν οἰκεῖον χυμὸν, εἶναι δ' οἰκεῖον ἐκάστῳ τῶν μορίων χυμὸν, ὃς ἂν || ἐπιτήδειος εἰς τὴν ἐξομοίωσιν ἦ, καὶ τὴν ἔλκουςαν αὐτὸν δυνάμιν ἀπὸ τῆς ἐνεργείας ἐλκτικὴν τέ τινα καὶ ἐπισπαστικὴν ὀνομάζεσθαι. δέδεικται δὲ καί, ὡς πρὸ μὲν τῆς ὁμοιώσεως ἡ πρόσφυσις ἐστίν, ἐκείνης δ' ἔμπροσθεν ἡ πρόσθεσις γίνεται, τέλος, ὡς ἂν εἴποι τις, οὕσα τῆς κατὰ τὴν ἐπισπαστικὴν δυνάμιν ἐνεργείας. αὐτὸ μὲν γὰρ τὸ παράγεσθαι τὴν τροφήν ἐκ τῶν φλεβῶν εἰς ἕκαστον τῶν μορίων τῆς ἐλκτικῆς ἐνεργούσης γίνεται δυνάμει, τὸ δ' ἤδη παρῆχθαι τε καὶ προστίθεσθαι τῷ μορίῳ τὸ τέλος ἐστὶν αὐτὸ, δι' ὃ καὶ τῆς τοιαύτης ἐνεργείας ἐδεήθημεν· ἵνα γὰρ προστεθῆ, διὰ τοῦθ' ἔλκεται. χρόνου δ' ἐντεῦθεν ἤδη πλείονος εἰς τὴν θρέψιν τοῦ ζώου δεῖ· ἐλχθῆναι μὲν γὰρ καὶ διὰ ταχέων τι δύναται, προσφῦναι δὲ καὶ ἀλλοιωθῆναι καὶ τελῶς ὁμοιωθῆναι τῷ τρεφομένῳ καὶ μέρος αὐτοῦ γενέσθαι παραχρῆμα μὲν οὐχ οἶόν τε, χρόνῳ δ' ἂν πλείονι συμβαίνοι καλῶς. ἀλλ' εἰ μὴ μένοι κατὰ τὸ μέρος ὁ προστεθεὶς οὗτος χυμὸς, εἰς ἕτερον δέ τι μεθίσταται καὶ παραρρέοι διὰ παντὸς ἀμείβων τε καὶ ὑπαλλάττων τὰ χωρία, κατ' οὐδὲν αὐτῶν || οὔτε πρόσφυσις οὔτ' ἐξομοίωσις ἔσται. δεῖ δὲ κἀνταῦθ' ἄτινος τῆ φύσει δυνάμει ἐτέρας εἰς πολυχρόνιον μὴν τοῦ προστεθέντος τῷ μορίῳ χυμοῦ καὶ ταύτης οὐκ ἔξωθὲν ποθεῖν ἐπιρρεούσης ἀλλ' ἐν αὐτῷ τῷ θρεψομένῳ κατωκισμένης, ἣν ἀπὸ τῆς ἐνεργείας πάλιν οἱ πρὸ ἡμῶν ἠναγκάσθησαν ὀνομάσαι καθεκτικὴν.

143

144

145

Pg 224

[Translation](#)

[Transliteration](#)

Ὁ μὲν δὴ λόγος ἤδη σαφῶς ἐνεδείξατο τὴν ἀνάγκην τῆς γενέσεως τῆς τοιαύτης δυνάμει καὶ ὅστις ἀκολουθίας σύνεσιν ἔχει, πέπεισται βεβαίως ἐξ ὧν εἵπομεν, ὡς ὑποκειμένου τε καὶ προαποδεδειγμένου τοῦ τεχνικῆν εἶναι τὴν φύσιν καὶ τοῦ ζώου κηδεμονικὴν ἀναγκαῖον ὑπάρχειν αὐτῇ καὶ τὴν τοιαύτην δυνάμιν.

II

Pg 226

[Translation](#)

[Transliteration](#)

Ἄλλ' ἡμεῖς οὐ τούτῳ μόνῳ τῷ γένει τῆς ἀποδείξεως εἰθισμένοι χρῆσθαι, προστιθέντες δ' αὐτῷ καὶ τὰς ἐκ τῶν ἐναργῶς φαινομένων ἀναγκαζούσας τε καὶ βιαζόμενας πίσυρας ἐπὶ τὰς τοιαύτας καὶ νῦν ἀφιζόμεθα καὶ δεῖξομεν ἐπὶ μὲν τινων μορίων τοῦ σώματος οὕτως ἐναργῆ τὴν καθεκτικὴν δυνάμιν, ὡς αὐταῖς ταῖς αἰσθήσεσι || διαγιγνώσκεισθαι τὴν ἐνέργειαν αὐτῆς, ἐπὶ δὲ τινων ἥττον μὲν ἐναργῶς ταῖς αἰσθήσεσι, λόγῳ δὲ κἀνταῦθα φωραθῆναι δυνάμενην.

146

Ἀρξώμεθ' οὖν τῆς διδασκαλίας ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τοῦ τέως πρώτου μεθόδῳ τινὶ προχειρίσασθαι μὲν ἅττα τοῦ σώματος, ἐφ' ὧν ἀκριβῶς ἐστὶ βασανίσει τε καὶ ζητῆσαι τὴν καθεκτικὴν δυνάμιν ὅποια ποτ' ἐστίν.

Ἄρ' οὖν ἄμεινον ἂν τις ἐτέρωθεν ἢ ἀπὸ τῶν μεγίστων τε καὶ κοιλοτάτων ὀργάνων ὑπάρξαιτο τῆς ζητήσεως; ἐμοὶ μὲν οὖν οὐκ ἂν δοκεῖ βέλτιον. ἐναργεῖς γοῦν εἶκος ἐπὶ τούτων φανῆναι τὰς ἐνεργείας διὰ τὸ μέγεθος· ὡς τὰ γε σμικρὰ τάχ' ἂν, εἰ καὶ σφοδρὰν ἔχει τὴν τοιαύτην δυνάμιν, ἀλλ' οὐκ αἰσθήσει γ' ἐτοίμην διαγιγνώσκεισθαι τὴν ἐνέργειαν αὐτῆς.

Ἄλλ' ἐστὶν ἐν τοῖς μάλιστα κοιλότατα καὶ μέγιστα τῶν τοῦ ζώου μορίων ἢ τε γαστήρ καὶ <αἰ> μῆτραί τε καὶ ὑστέραι καλούμεναι. τί οὖν κωλύει ταῦτα πρώτα προχειρισμένους ἐπισκέψασθαι τὰς ἐνεργείας αὐτῶν, ὅσαι μὲν καὶ πρὸ τῆς ἀνατομῆς δῆλαι, τὴν ἐξέτασιν ἐφ' ἡμῶν αὐτῶν ποιουμένους, ὅσαι δ' ἀμυδρότεροι, τὰ παραπλήσια διαιροῦντας ἀνθρώπῳ ζῶα, || οὐχ ὡς οὐκ ἂν ἱκανῶς τό γε καθόλου περὶ τῆς ζητουμένης δυνάμει καὶ τῶν ἀνομοίων ἐνδειξιζομένων, ἀλλ' ὡς ἴν' ἅμα τῷ κοινῷ καὶ τὸ ἴδιον ἐφ' ἡμῶν αὐτῶν ἐγνωκότες εἶς τε τὰς διαγνώσεις τῶν νοσημάτων καὶ

147

Pg 228

[Translation](#)

[Transliteration](#)

τὰς ἰάσεις εὐπορώτεροι γινώμεθα.

Περὶ μὲν οὖν ἀμφοτέρων τῶν ὀργάνων ἅμα λέγειν ἀδύνατον, ἐν μέρει δ' ὑπὲρ ἑκατέρου ποιησόμεθα τὸν λόγον ἀπὸ τοῦ σαφέστερον ἐνδείξασθαι δυναμένου τὴν καθεκτικὴν δύναμιν ἀρξάμενοι. κατέχει μὲν γὰρ καὶ ἡ γαστήρ τὰ σιτία, μέχρι περ ἂν ἐκπέψη, κατέχουσι δὲ καὶ αἱ μήτραι τὸ ἔμβρυον, ἔστ' ἂν τελειώσωσιν· ἀλλὰ πολλαπλάσιός ἐστὶν ὁ τῆς τῶν ἐμβρύων τελειώσεως χρόνος τῆς τῶν σιτίων πέψεως.

III

Εἰκὸς οὖν καὶ τὴν δύναμιν ἐναργέστερον ἐν ταῖς μήτραις φωράσειν ἡμᾶς τὴν καθεκτικὴν, ὅσω καὶ πολυχρονιωτέραν τῆς γαστρὸς τὴν ἐνέργειαν κέκτηται. μῆσι γὰρ ἐννέα πού ταῖς πλείσταις τῶν γυναικῶν ἐν αὐταῖς τελειοῦται τὰ κῆματα, μεμυκίαις μὲν ἅπαντι τῷ αὐχένι, περιεχούσαις δὲ πανταχόθεν αὐτὰ σὺν τῷ χορίῳ. || καὶ πέρας γε τῆς τοῦ στόματος μύσεως καὶ τῆς τοῦ κυομένου κατὰ τὰς μήτρας μούνης ἢ χρεῖα τῆς ἐνεργείας ἐστίν· οὐ γὰρ ὡς ἔτυχεν οὐδ' ἀλόγως ἰκανὰς περιστέλλεσθαι καὶ κατέχειν τὸ ἔμβρυον ἢ φύσις ἀπείργαστο τὰς ὑστέρας, ἀλλ' ἴν' εἰς τὸ πρέπον ἀφίκηται μέγεθος τὸ κυούμενον. ὅταν οὖν, οὐ χάριν ἐνήργουν τῇ καθεκτικῇ δυνάμει, συμπεπληρωμένον ἦ, ταύτην μὲν ἀνέπαυσάν τε καὶ εἰς ἡρεμίαν ἐπανήγαγον, ἀντ' αὐτῆς δ' ἑτέρα χρωῶνται τῇ τέως ἡσυχάζουση, τῇ προωστικῇ. ἦν δ' ἄρα καὶ τῆς ἐκείνης ἡσυχίας ὄρος ἢ χρεῖα καὶ τῆς γ' ἐνεργείας ὡσαύτως ἢ χρεῖα· καλούσης μὲν γὰρ αὐτῆς ἐνεργεῖ, μὴ καλούσης δ' ἡσυχάζει.

148

Pg 230
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Καὶ χρὴ πάλιν κἀνταῦθα καταμαθεῖν τῆς φύσεως τὴν τέχνην, ὡς οὐ μόνον ἐνεργειῶν χρησίμων δυνάμεις ἐνέθηκεν ἑκάστω τῶν ὀργάνων, ἀλλὰ καὶ τοῦ τῶν ἡσυχίων τε καὶ κινήσεων καιροῦ προύνοήσατο. καλῶς μὲν γὰρ ἀπάντων γιγνομένων τῶν κατὰ τὴν κύησιν ἢ ἀποκριτικὴ δύναμις ἡσυχάζει τελέως ὡσπερ οὐκ οὔσα, κακοπραγίας δὲ τινος γενομένης ἢ περὶ τὸ χορίον ἢ περὶ τινα τῶν ἄλλων || ὑμένων ἢ περὶ τὸ κυούμενον αὐτὸ καὶ τῆς τελειώσεως αὐτοῦ παντάπασι ἀπογνωσθείσης οὐκέτ' ἀναμένουσι τὸν ἐννεάμηνον αἱ μήτραι χρόνον, ἀλλ' ἢ μὲν καθεκτικὴ δύναμις αὐτίκα δὴ πέπαιται καὶ παραχωρεῖ κινεῖσθαι τῇ πρότερον ἀργούση, πράττει δ' ἤδη τι καὶ πραγματεύεται χρηστὸν ἢ ἀποκριτικὴ τε καὶ προωστικὴ· καὶ γὰρ οὖν καὶ ταύτην οὕτως ἐκάλεσαν ἀπὸ τῶν ἐνεργειῶν αὐτῇ τὰ ὀνόματα θέμενοι καθάπερ καὶ ταῖς ἄλλαις.

149

Καὶ πως ὁ λόγος ἔοικεν ὑπὲρ ἀμφοτέρων ἀποδείξειν ἅμα· καὶ γὰρ τοὶ καὶ διαδεχομένους αὐτὰς ἀλλήλας καὶ παραχωροῦσαν αἰετὴν τὴν ἑτέραν τῇ λοιπῇ, καθότι ἂν ἢ χρεῖα κελεύη, καὶ τὴν διδασκαλίαν κοινὴν οὐκ ἀπεικός ἐστι δέχεσθαι. τῆς μὲν οὖν καθεκτικῆς δυνάμειος ἔργον περιστεῖλαι τὰς μήτρας τῷ κυομένῳ πανταχόθεν, ὡστ' εὐλόγως ἀπτομέναις μὲν ταῖς μαιευτρίαις τὸ στόμα μεμυκὸς αὐτῶν φαίνεται, ταῖς κυούσαις δ' αὐταῖς κατὰ τὰς πρώτας ἡμέρας καὶ μάλιστα κατ' αὐτὴν ἐκείνην, ἐν ἧπερ ἂν ἢ τῆς γουῆς σύλληψις γένηται, κινουμένων τε καὶ συντρεχουσῶν εἰς ἑαυτὰς τῶν ὑστερῶν αἴσθησιν γίνεσθαι καὶ ἦν ἄμφω ταῦτα συμβῆ, μῦσαι μὲν τὸ στόμα χωρὶς φλεγμονῆς ἢ τινος ἄλλου παθήματος, αἴσθησιν δὲ τῆς κατὰ τὰς μήτρας κινήσεως ἀκολουθησάσαι, πρὸς αὐτὰς ἤδη τὸ σπέρμα τὸ παρὰ τὰνδρὸς εἰληφέναι τε καὶ κατέχειν αἱ γυναῖκες νομίζουσι.

150

Pg 232
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ταῦτα δ' οὐχ ἡμεῖς νῦν ἀναπλάττομεν ἡμῖν αὐτοῖς, ἀλλ' ἐκ μακρᾶς πείρας δοκιμασθέντα πᾶσι γέγραπται σχεδὸν τι τοῖς περὶ τούτων πραγματευσάμενοις. Ἡρόφιλος μὲν γε καὶ ὡς οὐδὲ πυρήνα μήλης ἂν δέχοιτο τῶν μητρῶν τὸ στόμα, πρὶν ἀποκυεῖν τὴν γυναικα, καὶ ὡς οὐδὲ τοῦλάχιστον ἔτι διέστηκεν, ἦν ὑπάρξεται κύειν, καὶ ὡς ἐπὶ πλέον ἀναστομοῦνται κατὰ τὰς τῶν ἐπιμηνίων φοράς, οὐκ ὠκνησε γράφειν· συνομολογοῦσι δ' αὐτῷ καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι πάντες οἱ περὶ τούτων πραγματευσάμενοι καὶ πρῶτός γ' ἀπάντων ἰατρῶν τε καὶ φιλοσόφων Ἰπποκράτης ἀπεφήνατο μῦειν τὸ στόμα τῶν ὑστερῶν ἐν τε ταῖς κυήσεσι καὶ ταῖς φλεγμοναῖς, ἀλλ' ἐν μὲν ταῖς κυήσεσιν οὐκ ἐξιστάμενον τῆς φύσεως, ἐν δὲ ταῖς φλεγμοναῖς σκληρὸν γινόμενον.

151

Ἐπὶ δὲ γε τῆς ἐναντίας τῆς ἐκκριτικῆς ἀνοίγνυται μὲν τὸ στόμα, προέρχεται δ' ὁ πυθμῆν || ἅπας ὅσον οἶον τ' ἐγγυτάτω τοῦ στόματος ἀπωθούμενος ἔξω τὸ ἔμβρυον, ἅμα δ' αὐτῷ καὶ τὰ συνεχῆ μέρη τὰ οἶον πλευρὰ τοῦ παντὸς ὀργάνου συνεπιλαμβανόμενα τοῦ ἔργου θλίβει τε καὶ προωθεῖ πᾶν ἔξω τὸ ἔμβρυον. καὶ πολλαῖς τῶν γυναικῶν ὠδίνες βίαιοι τὰς μήτρας ὅλας ἐκπεσεῖν ἠνάγκασαν ἀμέτρως χρησαμέναις τῇ τοιαύτῃ δυνάμει, παραπλησίου τινὸς γιγνομένου τῷ πολλακίς ἐν πάλαις τισὶ καὶ φιλονεικίαις συμβαίνοντι, ὅταν ἀνατρέψαι τε καὶ καταβαλεῖν ἐτέρους σπεύδοντες αὐτοὶ συγκαταπέσωμεν. οὕτω γὰρ καὶ αἱ μήτραι τὸ ἔμβρυον ὠθοῦσαι συνεξέπεσον ἐνίοτε καὶ μάλιστα, ὅταν οἱ πρὸς τὴν ῥάχιν αὐτῶν σύνδεσμοι χαλαροὶ φύσει τυγχάνωσιν ὄντες.

Pg 234
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

152

Ἔστι δὲ καὶ τοῦτο θαυμαστὸν τι τῆς φύσεως σόφισμα, τὸ ζῶντος μὲν τοῦ κῆματος ἀκριβῶς πάνυ μεμυκέναι τὸ στόμα τῶν μητρῶν, ἀποθανόντος δὲ παραχρῆμα διανοίγεσθαι τοσοῦτον, ὅσον εἰς τὴν ἔξοδον αὐτοῦ διαφέρει. καὶ μέντοι καὶ αἱ μαῖαι τὰς τικτούσας οὐκ εὐθὺς ἀνιστάσιν οὐδ' ἐπὶ τὸν δίφρον καθίζουσιν, ἀλλ' ἄπτονται πρότερον ἀνοίγομένου τοῦ στόματος || κατὰ βραχὺ καὶ πρῶτον μὲν, ὥστε τὸν μικρὸν δάκτυλον καθιέναι, διεστηκέναι φασίν, ἔπειτ' ἤδη καὶ μεῖζον καὶ κατὰ βραχὺ δὴ πυθθανόμενοις ἡμῖν ἀποκρίνονται τὸ μέγεθος τῆς διαστάσεως ἐπαυξανόμενον. ὅταν

δ' ἱκανὸν ἢ πρὸς τὴν τοῦ κουμμένου διόδου ἀνιστάσιν αὐτὰς καὶ καθίζουσι καὶ προθυμῆσθαι κελεύουσιν ἀπώσασθαι τὸ παιδίον. ἔστι δ' ἤδη τοῦτο τὸ ἔργον, ὃ παρ' ἑαυτῶν αἰ κύουσαι προστιθέασιν, οὐκέτι τῶν ὑστερῶν, ἀλλὰ τῶν κατ' ἐπιγαστριον μυῶν, οἱ πρὸς τὴν ἀποπάτησιν τε καὶ τὴν οὕρησιν ἡμῖν συνεργοῦσιν.

Pg 236
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

IV

153 Οὕτω μὲν ἐπὶ τῶν μητρῶν ἐναργῶς αἱ δύο φαίνονται δυνάμεις, ἐπὶ δὲ τῆς γαστρὸς ὧδε. πρῶτον μὲν τοῖς κλύδωσιν, οἱ δὲ καὶ πεπίστευνται τοῖς ἰατροῖς ἀρρωστοῦ κοιλίας εἶναι συμπτώματα καὶ κατὰ λόγον πεπίστευνται· ἐνίοτε μὲν γὰρ ἐλάχιστα προσενηνεγμένων οὐ γίνονται περιστελλομένης ἀκριβῶς αὐτοῖς τῆς γαστρὸς καὶ σφιγγούσης πανταχόθεν, ἐνίοτε δὲ μεστή μὲν ἡ γαστήρ ἐστίν, οἱ κλύδωνες δ' ὡς ἐπὶ κενῆς ἐξακούονται. κατὰ φύσιν μὲν γὰρ ἔχουσα καὶ χρωμένη καλῶς τῇ περισταλτικῇ δυνάμει, κἂν ὀλίγον ἢ τὸ περιεχόμενον, ἅπαν αὐτὸ περιλαμβάνουσα χώραν οὐδεμίαν ἀπολείπει κενήν, ἀρρωστοῦσα δὲ, καθότι ἂν ἀδυνατήσῃ περιλαβεῖν ἀκριβῶς, ἐνταῦθ' εὐρυχωρίαν τιν' ἐργαζομένη συγχωρεῖ τοῖς περιεχομένοις ὑγροῖς κατὰ τὰς τῶν σχημάτων μεταλλαγὰς ἄλλοτ' ἀλλαχόσε μεταρρέουσι κλύδωνας ἀποτελεῖν.

154 Εὐλόγως οὖν, ὅτι μηδὲ πέψουσιν ἱκανῶς, οἱ ἐν τῷδε τῷ συμπτώματι γενόμενοι προσδοκῶσιν· οὐ γὰρ ἐνδέχεται πέψαι καλῶς ἀρρωστον γαστέρα. τοῖς τοιούτοις δὲ καὶ μέχρι πλείονος ἐν αὐτῇ φαίνεται παραμένον τὸ βάρος, ὡς ἂν καὶ βραδύτερον πέττουσι. καὶ μὴν θαυμάσειεν ἂν τις ἐπ' αὐτῶν τούτων μάλιστα τὸ πολυχρόνιον τῆς ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ διατριβῆς οὐ τῶν σιτίων μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ τοῦ πόματος· οὐ γὰρ, ὅπερ ἂν οἰηθεῖη τις, ὡς τὸ τῆς γαστρὸς στόμα τὸ κάτω στενὸν ἱκανῶς ὑπάρχον οὐδὲν παρήσῃ πρὶν ἀκριβῶς λειωθῆναι, τοῦτ' αἴτιον ὄντως ἐστί. πολλὰ γοῦν πολλάκις ὀπωρῶν ὅστ' ἀ μέγιστα καταπίουσι || πάμπολλοι καὶ τις δακτύλιον χρυσοῦν ἐν τῷ στόματι φυλάττων ἄκων κατέπε καὶ ἄλλος τις νόμισμα καὶ ἄλλος ἄλλο τι σκληρὸν καὶ δυσκατέργαστον, ἀλλ' ὅμως ἅπαντες οὗτοι ῥαδίως ἀπεπάτησαν, ἃ κατέπιον, οὐδὲν αὐτοῖς ἀκολουθήσαντος συμπτώματος. εἰ δὲ γ' ἡ στενότης τοῦ πόρου τῆς γαστρὸς αἰτία τοῦ μέναι ἐπὶ πλεον ἢν τοῖς ἀτρίπτοις σιτίοις, οὐδὲν ἂν τούτων ποτὲ διεχώρησεν. ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ τὰ πόματ' αὐτοῖς ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ παραμένειν ἐπὶ πλεῖστον ἱκανὸν ἀπάγειν τὴν ὑπόνοιαν τοῦ πόρου τῆς στενότητος· ὅλως γάρ, εἴπερ ἦν ἐν τῷ κεχυλῶσθαι τὸ θάπτον ὑπιέναι, τὰ τε ῥοφήματ' ἂν οὕτω καὶ τὸ γάλα καὶ ὁ τῆς πτισάνης χυλὸς αὐτίκα διεξῆι πᾶσιν. ἀλλ' οὐχ ὧδ' ἔχει· τοῖς μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενέσιν ἐπὶ πλεῖστον ἐμπλεῖ ταῦτα καὶ κλύδωνας ἐργάζεται παραμένοντα καὶ θλίβει καὶ βαρύνει τὴν γαστέρα, τοῖς δ' ἰσχυροῖς οὐ μόνον τούτων οὐδὲν συμβαίνει, ἀλλὰ καὶ πολὺ πλῆθος ἄρτων καὶ κρεῶν ὑποχωρεῖ ταχέως.

Pg 238
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

155 Ὅν μόνον δ' ἐκ τοῦ περιτετάσθαι τὴν γαστέρα καὶ βαρύνεσθαι || καὶ μεταρρεῖν ἄλλοτ' εἰς ἄλλα μέρη μετὰ κλύδωνος τὸ παραμένειν ἐπὶ πλεον ἐν αὐτῇ πάντως τοῖς οὕτως ἔχουσι τεκμήραιτ' ἂν τις ἄλλα κἂκ τῶν ἐμέτων· ἐνιοι γὰρ οὐ μετὰ τρεῖς ὥρας ἢ τέτταρας ἄλλα νυκτῶν ἤδη μέσων παμπόλλου μεταξὺ χρόνου διελθόντος ἐπὶ ταῖς προσφοραῖς ἀνήμεσαν ἀκριβῶς ἅπαντα τὰ ἐδηδεσμένα.

Pg 240
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

156 Καὶ μὲν δὴ καὶ ζῶον ὀτιοῦν ἐμπλήσας ὑγρᾶς τροφῆς, ὡσπερ ἡμεῖς πολλάκις ἐπὶ συῶν ἐπειράθημεν ἐξ ἀλεύρων μέθ' ὕδατος οἶον κυκεῶνά τινα δόντες αὐτοῖς, ἔπειτα μετὰ τρεῖς πού καὶ τέτταρας ὥρας ἀνατεμόντες, εἰ οὕτω καὶ σὺ πράξεις, εὐρήσεις ἔτι κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα τὰ ἐδηδεσμένα· πέρας γὰρ αὐτοῖς ἐστί τῆς ἐνταῦθα μονῆς οὐχ ἡ χύλωσις, ἦν καὶ ἐκτὸς ἔτι ὄντων μηχανήσασθαι δυνατόν ἐστίν, ἀλλ' ἡ πέψις, ἕτερον τι τῆς χύλωσεως οὐσα, καθάπερ ἀιμάτωσις τε καὶ θρέψις. ὡς γὰρ κάκεῖνα δέδεικται ποιότητων μεταβολῆ γιγνόμενα, τὸν αὐτὸν τρόπον καὶ ἡ ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ πέψις τῶν σιτίων εἰς τὴν οἰκείαν ἐστί τῷ τρεφομένῳ ποιότητα || μεταβολὴ καὶ ὅταν γε πεφθῇ τελέως, ἀνοίγνυται μὲν τμηκαῦτα τὸ κάτω στόμα, διεκπίπτει δ' αὐτοῦ τὰ σιτία ῥαδίως, εἰ καὶ πλῆθος τι μεθ' ἑαυτῶν ἔχοντα τύχοι λίθων ἢ ὀστῶν ἢ γιγάρτων ἢ τινοσ ἄλλου χυλωθῆναι μὴ δυναμένου. καὶ σοι τοῦτ' ἔνεστιν ἐπὶ ζῶου θεάσασθαι στοχασαμένῳ τὸν καιρὸν τῆς κάτω διεξόδου. καὶ μὲν γε καὶ εἰ σφαλῆις ποτὲ τοῦ καιροῦ καὶ μηδὲν μήπω κάτω παρέρχοιτο πεττομένων ἔτι κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα τῶν σιτίων, οὐδ' οὕτως ἄκαρπος ἡ ἀνατομὴ σοι γενήσεται· θεάσῃ γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῶν, ὅπερ ὀλίγω πρόσθεν ἐλέγομεν, ἀκριβῶς μὲν μεμυκότα τὸν πυλωρὸν, ἅπασαν δὲ τὴν γαστέρα περιεσταλμένην τοῖς σιτίοις τρόπον ὁμοιότατον, οἷόνπερ καὶ αἱ μήτραι τοῖς κουμμένοις. οὐ γὰρ ἐστίν οὐδέποτε κενὴν εὐρεῖν χώραν οὔτε κατὰ τὰς ὑστέρας οὔτε κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν οὔτε κατὰ τὰς κύστεις ἀμφοτέρας οὔτε κατὰ τὴν χοληδόχον ὀνομαζομένην οὔτε τὴν ἐτέραν· ἀλλ' εἴτ' ὀλίγον εἴη τὸ περιεχόμενον ἐν αὐταῖς ἔιτε πολὺ, μεσταὶ καὶ πλήρεις αὐτῶν αἱ κοιλίαι φαίνονται περιστελλομένων ἀεὶ τῶν χιτώνων τοῖς περιεχομένοις, ὅταν γε κατὰ φύσιν ἔχη τὸ ζῶον. ||

Pg 242
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

157 Ἐρασίστρατος δ' οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως τὴν περιστολὴν τῆς γαστρὸς ἀπάντων αἰτίαν ἀποφαίνει καὶ τῆς λειώσεως τῶν σιτίων καὶ τῆς τῶν περιττωμάτων ὑποχωρήσεως καὶ τῆς τῶν κεχυλόμενων ἀναδόσεως.

Ἐγὼ μὲν γὰρ μυριάκις ἐπὶ ζῶντος ἔτι τοῦ ζῶου διελῶν τὸ περιτόναιον εὔρον ἀεὶ τὰ μὲν ἔντερα πάντα περιστελλόμενα τοῖς ἐνυπάρχουσιν, τὴν κοιλίαν δ' οὐχ ἀπλῶς, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ μὲν ταῖς ἐδωδαῖς ἄνωθεν τε καὶ κάτωθεν αὐτὰ καὶ πανταχόθεν ἀκριβῶς περιειληφυῖαν ἀκίνητον, ὡς δοκεῖν ἠνώσθαι καὶ περιπεφυκέναι τοῖς σιτίοις· ἐν δὲ τούτῳ καὶ τὸν πυλωρὸν εὐρισκόν ἀεὶ μεμυκότα καὶ κεκλεισμένον ἀκριβῶς ὡσπερ τὸ τῶν ὑστερῶν στόμα ταῖς ἐγκύμοσιν.

Pg 244
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ἐπὶ μέντοι ταῖς πέψεσι συμπληρωμέναις ἀνώκτο μὲν ὁ πλωρός, ἡ γαστήρ δὲ περισταλτικῶς ἐκινεῖτο παραπλησίως τοῖς ἐντέροις.

V

158 Ἄπαντ' οὖν ἀλλήλοις ὁμολογεῖ ταῦτα καὶ τῇ γαστρὶ καὶ ταῖς ὑστέραις καὶ ταῖς κύστεσιν εἶναι τινας ἐμφύτους δυνάμεις καθεκτικὰς μὲν τῶν οἰκείων ποιότητων, || ἀποκριτικὰς δὲ τῶν ἀλλοτρίων. ὅτι μὲν γὰρ ἔλκει τὴν χολὴν εἰς ἑαυτὴν ἢ ἐπὶ τῷ ἥπατι κύστις, ἔμπροσθεν δέδεικται, ὅτι δὲ καὶ ἀποκρίνει καθ' ἐκάστην ἡμέραν εἰς τὴν γαστέρα, καὶ τοῦτ' ἐναργῶς φαίνεται. καὶ μὴν εἰ διεδέχετο τὴν ἑλκτικὴν δύναμιν ἢ ἐκκριτικὴν καὶ μὴ μέση τις ἀμφοῖν ἦν ἢ καθεκτικὴ, διὰ παντὸς ἐχρῆν ἀνατεμνομένων τῶν ζώων ἴσον πλῆθος χολῆς εὐρίσκεσθαι κατὰ τὴν κύστιν· οὐ μὴν εὐρίσκεται γε. ποτὲ μὲν γὰρ πληρεστάτη, ποτὲ δὲ κενωτάτη, ποτὲ δὲ τὰς ἐν τῷ μεταξὺ διαφορὰς ἔχουσα θεωρεῖται, καθάπερ καὶ ἡ ἑτέρα κύστις ἢ τὸ οὖρον ὑποδεχομένη. ταύτης μὲν γε καὶ πρὸ τῆς ἀνατομῆς αἰσθανόμεθα, πρὶν ἀνιαθῆναι τῷ πλήθει βαρυνθεῖσαν ἢ τῇ δριμύτητι δηχθεῖσαν, ἀθροίζουσης ἔτι τὸ οὖρον, ὡς οὕσης τινὸς κάνταυθα δυνάμεως καθεκτικῆς.

159 Οὕτω δὲ καὶ ἡ γαστήρ ὑπὸ δριμύτητος πολλάκις δηχθεῖσα πρωϊαίτερον τοῦ δέοντος ἄπεπτον ἔτι τὴν τροφὴν ἀποτρίβεται. αὐθις δ' ἂν ποτε τῷ πλήθει βαρυνθεῖσα ἢ καὶ κατ' ἄμφω συνελθόντα κακῶς διατεθεῖσα διαρροίαις ἐάλω. καὶ μὲν γε καὶ οἱ ἔμετοι, τῷ πλήθει βαρυνθείσης || αὐτῆς ἢ τὴν ποιότητα τῶν ἐν αὐτῇ σιτίων τε καὶ περιττωμάτων μὴ φερούσης, ἀνάλογόν τι ταῖς διαρροίαις πάθημα τῆς ἄνω γαστρὸς ἔστιν. ὅταν μὲν γὰρ ἐν τοῖς κάτω μέρεσιν αὐτῆς ἢ τοιαύτη γένηται διάθεσις, ἐρρωμένων τῶν κατὰ τὸν στόμαχον, εἰς διαρροίας ἐτελεύτησεν, ὅταν δ' ἐν τοῖς κατὰ τὸ στόμα, τῶν ἄλλων εὐρωστούντων, εἰς ἐμέτους.

VI

Ἔνεστι δὲ καὶ τοῦτο πολλάκις ἐναργῶς ἰδεῖν ἐπὶ τῶν ἀποσίτων· ἀναγκαζόμενοι γὰρ ἐσθίειν οὔτε καταπίνειν εὐσθενούσιν οὔτ', εἰ καὶ βιάσαιντο, κατέχουσιν, ἀλλ' εὐθὺς ἀνεμοῦσι. καὶ οἱ ἄλλως δὲ τῶν ἐδεσμάτων πρὸς ὅτιοῦν δυσχεραίνοντες βιασθέντες ἐνίοτε προσάρασθαι ταχέως ἐξεμοῦσιν, ἢ εἰ κατάσχοιεν βιασάμενοι, ναυτιώδεις τ' εἰσὶ καὶ τῆς γαστρὸς ὑπίαις αἰσθάνονται καὶ σπυροῦσης ἀποθέσθαι τὸ λυποῦν.

160 Οὕτως ἐξ ἀπάντων τῶν φαινομένων, ὅπερ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐρρέθη, μαρτυρεῖται τὸ δεῖν ὑπάρχειν τοῖς τοῦ ζώου μορίοις σχεδὸν ἅπασιν ἔφεσιν μὲν τινὰ καὶ οἶον ὄρεξιν τῆς οἰκείας ποιότητος, ἀποστροφὴν δὲ τινα || καὶ οἶον μῖσός τι τῆς ἀλλοτρίας, ἀλλ' ἐπιέμενα μὲν ἔλκειν εὐλογον, ἀποστρεφόμενα δ' ἐκκρίνειν.

Κακ τούτων πάλιν ἢ θ' ἑλκτικὴ δύναμις ἀποδείκνυται καθ' ἅπαν ὑπάρχουσα καὶ ἡ προωστικὴ.

Ἄλλ' εἴπερ ἔφεσις τέ τις ἔστι καὶ ἔλξις, εἴη ἂν τις καὶ ἀπόλαυσις· οὐδὲν γὰρ τῶν ὄντων ἔλκει τι δι' αὐτὸ τὸ ἔλκειν, ἀλλ' ἴν' ἀπολαύσῃ τοῦ διὰ τῆς ὀλκῆς εὐπορηθέντος. καὶ μὴν ἀπολαύειν οὐ δύναται μὴ κατασχόν. κὰν τούτω πάλιν ἢ καθεκτικὴ δύναμις ἀποδείκνυται τὴν γένεσιν ἀναγκαίαν ἔχουσα· σαφῶς γὰρ ἐφίεται μὲν τῶν οἰκείων ποιότητων ἢ γαστήρ, ἀποστρέφεται δὲ τὰς ἀλλοτρίας.

Ἄλλ' εἴπερ ἐφίεται τε καὶ ἔλκει καὶ ἀπολαύει κατέχουσα καὶ περιστελλομένη, εἴη ἂν τι καὶ πέραις αὐτῆς τῆς ἀπολαύσεως κάπῃ τῷδ' ὁ καιρὸς ἤδη τῆς ἐκκριτικῆς δυνάμεως ἐνεργούσης.

VII

161 Ἄλλ' εἰ καὶ κατέχει καὶ ἀπολαύει, καταχρῆται πρὸς ὃ πέφυκε. πέφυκε δὲ τοῦ προσήκοντος ἑαυτῇ || κατὰ ποιότητα καὶ οἰκείου μεταλαμβάνειν· ὥσθ' ἔλκει τῶν σιτίων ὅσον χρηστότατον ἀτμωδῶς τε καὶ κατὰ βραχὺ καὶ τοῦτο τοῖς ἑαυτῆς χιτῶσιν ἐναποτίθεται τε καὶ προστίθῃσιν. ὅταν δ' ἰκανῶς ἐμπλησθῇ, καθάπερ ἄχθος τι τὴν λοιπὴν ἀποτίθεται τροφὴν ἐσχηκυῖάν τι χρηστὸν ἤδη καὶ αὐτὴν ἐκ τῆς πρὸς τὴν γαστέρα κοινωνίας· οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐνδέχεται δύο σώματα δρᾶν καὶ πάσχειν ἐπιτήδεια συνελθόντα μὴ οὐκ ἦτοι πάσχειν θ' ἅμα καὶ δρᾶν ἢ θάτερον μὲν δρᾶν, θάτερον δὲ πάσχειν. ἐὰν μὲν γὰρ ἰσάζῃ ταῖς δυνάμεσιν, ἐξ ἴσου δράσει τε καὶ πείσεται, ἂν δ' ὑπερέχη πολὺ καὶ κρατῆ θάτερον, ἐνεργήσει περὶ τὸ πάσχον· ὥστε δράσει μέγα μὲν τι καὶ αἰσθητόν, αὐτὸ δ' ἦτοι σμικρόν τι καὶ οὐκ αἰσθητόν ἢ παντάπασιν οὐδὲν πείσεται. ἀλλ' ἐν τούτῳ δὴ καὶ μάλιστα διήνεγκε φαρμάκου δηλητηρίου τροφή· τὸ μὲν γὰρ κρατεῖ τῆς ἐν τῷ σώματι δυνάμεως, ἢ δὲ κρατεῖται.

162 Οὐκ οὖν ἐνδέχεται τροφὴν μὲν εἶναι τι τῷ ζῷω προσήκουσαν, οὐ μὴν καὶ κρατεῖσθαι γ' ὁμοίως πρὸς τῶν || ἐν τῷ ζῷω ποιότητων· τὸ κρατεῖσθαι δ' ἦν ἀλλοιοῦσθαι. ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ τὰ μὲν ἰσχυρότερα ταῖς δυνάμεσιν ἔστι μόρια, τὰ δ' ἀσθενέστερα, κρατῆσει μὲν πάντα τῆς οἰκείας τῷ ζῷω τροφῆς, οὐχ ὁμοίως δὲ πάντα· κρατῆσει δ' ἄρα καὶ ἡ γαστήρ καὶ ἀλλοιώσει μὲν τὴν τροφήν, οὐ μὴν ὁμοίως ἥπατι καὶ φλεψὶ καὶ ἀρτηρίαις καὶ καρδίᾳ.

Πόσον οὖν ἔστιν, ὃ ἀλλοιοῖ, καὶ δὴ θεασόμεθα· πλέον μὲν ἢ κατὰ τὸ στόμα, μείον δ'

Pg 246

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 248

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 250

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

163 ἢ κατὰ τὸ ἦπαρ τε καὶ τὰς φλέβας. αὕτη μὲν γὰρ ἢ ἀλλοιώσις εἰς αἵματος οὐσίαν ἄγει τὴν τροφήν, ἢ δ' ἐν τῷ στόματι μεθίστησι μὲν αὐτὴν ἐναργῶς εἰς ἕτερον εἶδος, οὐ μὴν εἰς τέλος γε μετακοσμεῖ. μάθοις δ' ἂν ἐπὶ τῶν ἐγκαταλειφθέντων ταῖς διαστάσεσι τῶν ὀδόντων σιτίων καὶ καταμεινάντων δι' ὅλης νυκτός· οὔτε γὰρ ἄρτος ἀκριβῶς ὁ ἄρτος οὔτε κρέας ἐστί τὸ κρέας, ἀλλ' ὄζει μὲν τοιοῦτον, οἶόνπερ καὶ τοῦ ζώου τὸ στόμα, διαλέλυται δὲ καὶ διατέθηκε καὶ τὰς ἐν τῷ ζῶῳ τῆς σαρκὸς ἀπομέμακται ποιότητας. ἔνεστι δὲ σοι θεάσασθαι τὸ μέγεθος τῆς ἐν τῷ στόματι ἢ τῶν σιτίων ἀλλοιώσεως, εἰ πυροὺς μασησάμενος ἐπιθείης ἀπέπτοις δοθιῆσιν· ὄψει γὰρ αὐτοὺς τάχιστα μεταβάλλοντάς τε καὶ συμπέττοντας, οὐδὲν τοιοῦτον, ὅταν ὕδατι φυραθῶσιν, ἐργάσασθαι δυναμένους. καὶ μὴ θαυμάσης· τὸ γὰρ τοι φλέγμα τουτὶ τὸ κατὰ τὸ στόμα καὶ λειχήνων ἐστὶν ἄκος καὶ σκορπίους ἀναίρει παραχρῆμα καὶ πολλὰ τῶν ἰοβόλων θηρίων τὰ μὲν εὐθέως ἀποκτείνει, τὰ δ' ἐς ὕστερον· ἅπαντα γοῦν βλάπτει μεγάλως, ἀλλὰ τὰ μεμασημένα σιτία πρῶτον μὲν τούτῳ τῷ φλέγματι βέβρεκταί τε καὶ πεφύραται, δεύτερον δὲ καὶ τῷ χρωτὶ τοῦ στόματος ἅπαντα πεπλησίακεν, ὥστε πλείονα μεταβολὴν εἴληφε τῶν ἐν ταῖς κεναῖς χώραις τῶν ὀδόντων ἐσφηνωμένων.

164 Ἀλλ' ὅσον τὰ μεμασημένα τούτων ἐπὶ πλεον ἠλλοίωται, τοσοῦτον ἐκείνων τὰ καταποθέντα. μὴ γὰρ οὐδὲ παραβλητὸν ἢ τὸ τῆς ὑπερβολῆς, εἰ τὸ κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν ἐννοῆσαιμεν φλέγμα καὶ χολὴν καὶ πνεῦμα καὶ θερμασίαν καὶ ὅλην τὴν οὐσίαν τῆς γαστρούς. εἰ δὲ καὶ συνεπινοήσῃς αὐτῇ τὰ παρακείμενα ἢ σπλάγχνα καθάπερ τινὶ λέβητι μεγάλῳ πυρὸς ἐστίας πολλάς, ἐκ δεξιῶν μὲν τὸ ἦπαρ, ἐξ ἀριστερῶν δὲ τὸν σπλῆνα, τὴν καρδίαν δ' ἐκ τῶν ἄνω, σὺν αὐτῇ δὲ καὶ τὰς φρένας αἰωρουμένας τε καὶ διὰ παντὸς κινουμένας, ἐφ' ἅπασιν δὲ τούτοις σκέπον τὸ ἐπίπλοον, ἐξαίσιόν τινα πεισθήσῃ τὴν ἀλλοίωσιν γίνεσθαι τῶν εἰς τὴν γαστέρα καταποθέντων σιτίων.

165 Πῶς δ' ἂν ἠδύνατο ῥαδίως αἵματοῦσθαι μὴ προπαρασκευασθέντα τῇ τοιαύτῃ μεταβολῇ; δέδεικται γὰρ οὖν καὶ πρόσθεν, ὡς οὐδὲν εἰς τὴν ἐναντίαν ἀθρόως μεθίσταται ποιότητα. πῶς οὖν ὁ ἄρτος αἷμα γίνεται, πῶς δὲ τὸ τεῦτλον ἢ ὁ κύαμος ἢ τι τῶν ἄλλων, εἰ μὴ πρότερόν τιν' ἕτερον ἀλλοίωσιν ἐδέξατο; πῶς δ' ἢ κόπρος ἐν τοῖς λεπτοῖς ἐντέροις ἀθρόως γεννηθήσεται; τι γὰρ ἐν τούτοις σφοδρότερον εἰς ἀλλοίωσιν ἐστί τῶν κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα; πότερα τῶν χιτώνων τὸ πληθύνει ἢ τῶν γειννιόντων σπλάγχνων ἢ περιίθεσις ἢ τῆς μονῆς ὁ χρόνος ἢ σύμφυτός τις ἐν τοῖς ὀργάνοις θερμασία; καὶ μὴν κατ' οὐδὲν τούτων πλεονεκτεῖ τὰ ἔντερα τῆς γαστρούς. τί ποτ' οὖν ἐν μὲν τῇ γαστρὶ νυκτός ἢ ὅλης πολλακίς μείναντα τὸν ἄρτου ἔτι φυλάττεσθαι βούλονται τὰς ἀρχαίας διασώζοντα ποιότητας, ἐπειδὴ δ' ἅπαξ ἐμπέση τοῖς ἐντέροις, εὐθύς γίνεσθαι κόπρον; εἰ μὲν γὰρ ὁ τοσοῦτος χρόνος ἀδύνατος ἀλλοιοῦν, οὐδ' ὁ βραχὺς ἱκανός· εἰ δ' οὗτος αὐτάρκης, πῶς οὐ πολὺ μᾶλλον ὁ μακρός; ἄρ' οὖν ἀλλοιοῦται μὲν ἢ τροφή κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν, ἄλλην δὲ τιν' ἀλλοίωσιν καὶ οὐχ οἶαν ἐκ τῆς φύσεως ἴσχει τοῦ μεταβάλλοντος ὀργάνου; ἢ ταύτην μὲν, οὐ μὴν τὴν γ' οἰκείαν τῷ τοῦ ζώου σώματι; μακρῷ τοῦτ' ἀδυνατώτερόν ἐστι. καὶ μὴν οὐκ ἄλλο γ' ἢν ἢ πέψις ἢ ἀλλοίωσις εἰς τὴν οἰκείαν τοῦ τρεφομένου ποιότητα. εἴπερ οὖν ἢ πέψις τοῦτ' ἐστί καὶ ἢ τροφή κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα δέδεικται δεχομένη ποιότητα τῷ μέλλοντι πρὸς αὐτῆς θρέψεσθαι ζῶω προσήκουσαν, ἱκανῶς ἀποδέδεικται τὸ πέττεσθαι κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα τὴν τροφήν.

166 Καὶ γελοῖος μὲν Ἀσκληπιάδης οὗτ' ἐν ταῖς ἐρυγαῖς λέγων ἐμφαίνεσθαι ποτε τὴν ποιότητα τῶν πεφθέντων σιτίων οὗτ' ἐν τοῖς ἐμέτοις οὗτ' ἐν ταῖς ἀνα||τομαῖς· αὐτὸ γὰρ δὴ τὸ τοῦ σώματος ἐξόζειν αὐτὰ τῆς κοιλίας ἐστί τὸ πεπέφθαι. ὁ δ' οὕτως ἐστὶν ἐμήθης, ὥστ', ἐπειδὴ τῶν παλαιῶν ἀκούει λεγόντων ἐπὶ τὸ χρηστὸν ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ μεταβάλλειν τὰ σιτία, δοκιμάζει ζητεῖν οὐ τὸ κατὰ δύναμιν ἀλλὰ τὸ κατὰ γεῦσιν χρηστὸν, ὥσπερ ἢ τοῦ μήλου μηλωδεστέρου—χρῆ γὰρ οὕτως αὐτῷ διαλέγεσθαι— γιγνομένου κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν ἢ τοῦ μέλιτος μελιτωδεστέρου.

Πολὸν δ' εὐθηέστερός ἐστι καὶ γελοιώτερος ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος ἢ μὴ νοῶν, ὅπως εἴρηται πρὸς τῶν παλαιῶν ἢ πέψις ἐψήσει παραπλήσιος ὑπάρχειν, ἢ ἐκὼν σοφιζόμενος ἑαυτόν. ἐψήσει μὲν οὖν, φησὶν, οὕτως ἐλαφρὰν ἔχουσαν θερμασίαν οὐκ εἰκὸς εἶναι παραπλησίαν τὴν πέψιν, ὥσπερ ἢ τὴν Αἴτην δέον ὑποθεῖναι τῇ γαστρὶ ἢ ἄλλως αὐτῆς ἀλλοιωῖσιν τὰ σιτία μὴ δυναμένης ἢ δυναμένης μὲν ἀλλοιοῦν, οὐ κατὰ τὴν ἔμφυτον δὲ θερμασίαν, ὕγραν οὖσαν δηλονότι καὶ διὰ τοῦθ' ἔψιν οὐκ ὀπτᾶν εἰρημένην.

167 Ἐχρῆν δ' αὐτόν, εἴπερ περὶ πραγμάτων ἀντιλέγειν ἐβούλετο, πειραθῆναι δεῖξαι μάλιστα μὲν καὶ ἢ πρῶτον, ὡς οὐδὲ μεταβάλλει τὴν ἀρχὴν οὐδ' ἀλλοιοῦται κατὰ πιστότητα πρὸς τῆς γαστρούς τὰ σιτία, δεύτερον δ', εἴπερ μὴ οἶός τ' ἦν τοῦτο πιστώσασθαι, τὸ τὴν ἀλλοίωσιν αὐτῶν ἀχρηστον εἶναι τῷ ζῶῳ· εἰ δὲ μὴδὲ τοῦτ' εἶχε διαβάλλειν, ἐξελέγξει τὴν περὶ τὰς δραστηκᾶς ἀρχὰς ὑπόληψιν καὶ δεῖξαι τὰς ἐνεργείας ἐν τοῖς μορίοις οὐ διὰ τὴν ἐκ θερμοῦ καὶ ψυχροῦ καὶ ξηροῦ καὶ ὕγρου ποῖαν κρᾶσιν ὑπάρχειν ἀλλὰ δι' ἄλλο τι· εἰ δὲ μὴδὲ τοῦτ' ἐτόλμα διαβάλλειν, ἀλλ' ὅτι γε μὴ τὸ θερμὸν ἐστὶν ἐν τοῖς ὑπὸ φύσεως διοικουμένοις τὸ τῶν ἄλλων δραστηκώτατον. ἢ εἰ μήτε τοῦτο μήτε τῶν ἄλλων τι τῶν ἐμπροσθεν εἶχεν ἀποδεικνύειν, μὴ ληρεῖν ὀνόματι προσπαλαίοντα μάτην, ὥσπερ οὐ σαφῶς Ἀριστοτέλους ἐν τ' ἄλλοις πολλοῖς κᾶν τῷ τετάρτῳ τῶν μετεωρολογικῶν ὅπως ἢ πέψις ἐψήσει παραπλήσιος εἶναι λέγεται, καὶ ὅτι μὴ πρῶτως μὴδὲ κυρίως ὀνομαζόντων, εἰρηκότος.

Ἀλλ', ὡς ἤδη λέλεκται πολλακίς, ἀρχὴ τούτων ἀπάντων ἐστί μία τὸ περὶ θερμοῦ καὶ

ψυχροῦ καὶ ξηροῦ καὶ ὑγροῦ διασκέψασθαι, καθάπερ Ἀριστοτέλης ἐποίησεν ἐν τῷ δευτέρῳ περὶ γενέσεως καὶ φθορᾶς, ἀπο||δείξας ἀπάσας τὰς κατὰ τὰ σώματα μεταβολὰς καὶ ἀλλοιώσεις ὑπὸ τούτων γίνεσθαι. ἀλλ' Ἐρασίστρατος οὔτε τούτοις οὔτ' ἄλλω τινὶ τῶν προειρημένων ἀντειπῶν ἐπὶ τοῦνομα μόνον ἐτράπετο τῆς ἐψήσεως.

VIII

Ἐπὶ μὲν οὖν τῆς πέψεως, εἰ καὶ τάλλα πάντα παρέλιπε, τὸ γοῦν ὅτι διαφέρει τῆς ἐκτὸς ἐψήσεως ἢ ἐν τοῖς ζῶις πέψις, ἐπειράθη δεικνύναι, περὶ δὲ τῆς καταπόσεως οὐδ' ἄχρι τοσοῦτου. τί γὰρ φησιν;

“Ὀλκῆ μὲν οὖν τῆς κοιλίας οὐδεμία φαίνεται εἶναι.”

Καὶ μὴν δύο χιτῶνας ἢ γαστήρ ἔχει πάντως ἕνεκα του γεγονότας καὶ διήκουσιν οὗτοι μέχρι τοῦ στόματος, ὁ μὲν ἔνδον, οἷός ἐστι κατὰ τὴν γαστέρα, τοιοῦτος διαμένων, ὁ δ' ἕτερος ἐπὶ τὸ σαρκωδέστερον ἐν τῷ στομάχῳ τρεπόμενος. ὅτι μὲν οὖν ἐναντίας ἀλλήλαις τὰς ἐπιβολὰς τῶν ἰνῶν ἔχουσιν οἱ χιτῶνες οὗτοι, τὸ φαινόμενον αὐτὸ μαρτυρεῖ. τινὸς δ' ἕνεκα τοιοῦτοι γέγονασιν, Ἐρασίστρατος μὲν οὐδ' ἐπεχείρησεν εἰπεῖν, ἡμεῖς δ' ἐροῦμεν.

Pg 262

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ὁ μὲν ἔνδον εὐθείας ἔχει τὰς ἴνας, ὀλκῆς γὰρ ἕνεκα γέ||γονεν· ὁ δ' ἔξωθεν ἐγκαρσίας ὑπὲρ τοῦ κατὰ κύκλον περιστέλλεσθαι· ἐκάστῳ γὰρ τῶν κινουμένων ὀργάνων ἐν τοῖς σώμασι κατὰ τὰς τῶν ἰνῶν θέσεις αἱ κινήσεις εἰσίν. ἐπ' αὐτῶν δὲ πρῶτον τῶν μυῶν, εἰ βούλει, βασάνισον τὸν λόγον, ἐφ' ὧν καὶ αἱ ἴνες ἐναργέσταται καὶ αἱ κινήσεις αὐτῶν ὀρῶνται διὰ σφοδρότητα. μετὰ δὲ τοὺς μῦς ἐπὶ τὰ φυσικὰ τῶν ὀργάνων ἴθι καὶ πάντ' ὅψει κατὰ τὰς ἴνας κινούμενα καὶ διὰ τοῦθ' ἐκάστῳ μὲν τῶν ἐντέρων στρογγύλαι καθ' ἐκάτερον τῶν χιτῶνων αἱ ἴνες εἰσι· περιστέλλονται γὰρ μόνον, ἔλκουσι δ' οὐδὲν. ἢ γαστήρ δὲ τῶν ἰνῶν τὰς μὲν εὐθείας ἔχει χάριν ὀλκῆς, τὰς δ' ἐγκαρσίας ἕνεκα περιστολῆς· ὡσπερ γὰρ ἐν τοῖς μυσὶν ἐκάστης τῶν ἰνῶν τεινομένης τε καὶ πρὸς τὴν ἀρχὴν ἐλκομένης αἱ κινήσεις γίνονται, κατὰ τὸν αὐτὸν λόγον κὰν τῇ γαστρὶ· τῶν μὲν οὖν ἐγκαρσίων ἰνῶν τεινομένων ἔλαττον ἀνάγκη γίνεσθαι τὸ εὖρος τῆς περιεχομένης ὑπ' αὐτῶν κοιλότητος, τῶν δ' εὐθειῶν ἐλκομένων τε καὶ εἰς ἐαυτὰς συναγομένων οὐκ ἐνδέχεται μὴ οὐ συναιρεῖσθαι τὸ μῆκος. ἄλλα μὴν || ἐναργῶς γε φαίνεται καταπινόντων συναιρούμενον καὶ τοσοῦτον ὁ λάρυγξ ἀνατρέχων, ὅσον ὁ στόμαχος κατασπᾶται, καὶ ὅταν γε συμπληρωθείσης τῆς ἐν τῷ καταπίνειν ἐνεργείας ἀφεθῆ τῆς τάσεως ὁ στόμαχος, ἐναργῶς πάλιν φαίνεται καταφερόμενος ὁ λάρυγξ· ὁ γὰρ ἔνδον χιτῶν τῆς γαστρὸς ὁ τὰς εὐθείας ἴνας ἔχων ὁ καὶ τὸν στόμαχον ὑπαλείφω καὶ τὸ στόμα τοῖς ἐντὸς μέρεσιν ἐπεκτείνεται τοῦ λάρυγγος, ὡστ' οὐκ ἐνδέχεται κατασπῶμενον αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τῆς κοιλίας μὴ οὐ συνεπισπᾶσθαι καὶ τὸν λάρυγγα.

Pg 264

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ὅτι δ' αἱ περιφερεῖς ἴνες, αἷς περιστέλλεται τὰ τ' ἄλλα μόρια καὶ ἢ γαστήρ, οὐ συναιροῦσι τὸ μῆκος, ἀλλὰ συστέλλουσι καὶ στενοῦσι τὴν εὐρύτητα, καὶ παρ' αὐτοῦ λαβεῖν ἔστιν ὁμολογούμενον Ἐρασιστράτου· περιστέλλεσθαι γὰρ φησι τοῖς σιτίσις τὴν γαστέρα κατὰ τὸν τῆς πέψεως ἅπαντα χρόνον. ἀλλ' εἰ περιστέλλεται μὲν, οὐδὲν δὲ τοῦ μήκους ἀφαιρεῖται τῆς κοιλίας, οὐκ ἔστί τῆς περισταλτικῆς κινήσεως ἴδιον τὸ κατασπᾶν κάτω τὸν στόμαχον. ὅπερ γὰρ αὐτὸς ὁ Ἐρασίστρατος εἶπέ, τοῦτο μόνον αὐτὸ συμβήσεται τὸ τῶν ἄνω συστελλομένων διαστέλλεσθαι τὰ κάτω. τοῦτο δ' ὅτι, καὶ εἰς νεκροῦ τὸν στόμαχον ὕδατος ἐγγῆς, φαίνεται γινόμενον, οὐδεὶς ἀγνοεῖ. τῆς γὰρ τῶν ὕλων διὰ στενοῦ σώματος ὀδοιπορίας ἀκόλουθον ἐστὶ τὸ σύμπτωμά· θαυμαστὸν γάρ, εἰ διερχομένου τινὸς αὐτὸν ὄγκου μὴ διασταλήσεται. οὐκοῦν τὸ μὲν τῶν ἄνω συστελλομένων διαστέλλεσθαι τὰ κάτω κοινόν ἐστὶ καὶ τοῖς νεκροῖς σώμασι, δι' ὧν ὁπωσοῦν τι διεξέρχεται, καὶ τοῖς ζῶσιν, εἴτε περιστέλλοιτο τοῖς διερχομένοις εἴθ' ἔλκοιτο.

Pg 266

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Τὸ δὲ τῆς τοῦ μήκους συναιρέσεως ἴδιον τῶν τὰς εὐθείας ἴνας ἐχόντων ὀργάνων, ἴν' ἐπισπᾶσονται τι. ἀλλὰ μὴν ἐδείχθη κατασπῶμενος ὁ στόμαχος, οὐ γὰρ ἂν εἶλκε τὸν λάρυγγα· δῆλον οὖν, ὡς ἢ γαστήρ ἔλκει τὰ σιτία διὰ τοῦ στομάχου.

Καὶ ἢ κατὰ τὸν ἕμετον δὲ τῶν ἐμουμένων ἄχρι τοῦ στόματος φορὰ πάντως μὲν που καὶ αὐτὴ τὰ μὲν ὑπὸ τῶν ἀναφερομένων διατεινόμενα μέρη τοῦ στομάχου διεστῶτα κέκτηται, τῶν πρόσω δ' ὁ τι ἂν ἐκάστοτ' ἐπιλαμβάνηται, τοῦτ' ἀρχόμενον διαστέλλεται, τὸ δ' || ὀπισθεν καταλείπει δηλονότι συστελλόμενον, ὡστ' ὁμοίαν εἶναι πάντη τὴν διάθεσιν τοῦ στομάχου κατὰ γε τοῦτο τῇ τῶν καταπινόντων· ἀλλὰ τῆς ὀλκῆς μὴ παρούσης τὸ μῆκος ὅλον ἴσον ἐν τοῖς τοιοῦτοις συμπτώμασι διαφυλάττεται.

Διὰ τοῦτο δὲ καὶ καταπίνειν ῥᾶον ἐστὶν ἢ ἐμεῖν, ὅτι καταπίνεται μὲν ἀμφοῖν τῆς γαστρὸς τῶν χιτῶνων ἐνεργούντων, τοῦ μὲν ἐντὸς ἔλκοντος, τοῦ δ' ἐκτὸς περιστέλλομένου τε καὶ συνεπωθοῦντος, ἐμεῖται δὲ θατέρου μόνου τοῦ ἔξωθεν ἐνεργούντος, οὐδενὸς ἔλκοντος εἰς τὸ στόμα. οὐ γὰρ δὴ ὡσπερ ἢ τῆς γαστρὸς ὄρεξις προηγέει τοῦ καταπίνειν τὰ σιτία, τὸν αὐτὸν τρόπον κὰν τοῖς ἐμέτοις ἐπιθυμῆ τι τῶν κατὰ τὸ στόμα μορίων τοῦ γινομένου παθήματος, ἀλλ' ἄμφω τῆς γαστρὸς αὐτῆς εἰσιν ἐναντία διαθέσεις, ὀρεγομένης μὲν καὶ προσιεμένης τὰ χρήσιμά τε καὶ οἰκεῖα, δυσχεραίνουσης δὲ καὶ ἀποτριβομένης τὰ ἀλλότρια. διὸ καὶ τὸ καταπίνειν αὐτὸ τοῖς μὲν ἰκανῶς ὀρεγομένοις τῶν οἰκεῖων ἐδεσμάτων τῇ γαστρὶ τάχιστα

Pg 268

[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

173 γίνεταί, σαφῶς ἔλκούσης αὐτὰ καὶ κατασπώσης πρὶν ἢ μασθῆναι, τοῖς δ' ἦτοι φάρμακόν τι κατ' ἀνάγκη πίνουσιν ἢ σιτίον ἐν χώρᾳ φαρμάκου προσφερομένοις ἀνιαρὰ καὶ μόγις ἢ κατάποσις αὐτῶν ἐπιτελεῖται.

Δῆλος οὖν ἐστὶν ἐκ τῶν εἰρημένων ὁ μὲν ἔνδον χιτῶν τῆς γαστρὸς ὁ τὰς εὐθείας ἔχων ἵνας τῆς ἐκ τοῦ στόματος εἰς αὐτὴν ὀλκῆς ἕνεκα γεγυῶς καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἐν ταῖς καταπόσεσι μόναις ἐνεργῶν, ὁ δ' ἔξωθεν ὁ τὰς ἐγκαρσίας ἔχων ἕνεκα μὲν τοῦ περιστέλλεσθαι τοῖς ἐνυπάρχουσι καὶ προωθεῖν αὐτὰ τοιοῦτος ἀποτελεσθεῖς, ἐνεργῶν δ' οὐδὲν ἦττον ἐν τοῖς ἐμέτοις ἢ ταῖς καταπόσεσιν. ἐναργέστατα δὲ μαρτυρεῖ τῷ λεγομένῳ καὶ τὸ κατὰ τὰς χάννας τε καὶ τοὺς συνόδοντας γιγνόμενον· εὐρίσκεται γὰρ ἐνίοτε τούτων ἢ γαστήρ ἐν τῷ στόματι καθάπερ καὶ ὁ Ἀριστοτέλης ἐν ταῖς περὶ ζῶων ἔγραψεν ἱστορίας καὶ προστίθησιν γε τὴν αἰτίαν ὑπὸ λαιμαργίας αὐτοῖς τοῦτο συμβαίνειν φάσκων.

174 Ἔχει γὰρ ὧδε· κατὰ τὰς σφοδροτέρας ὀρέξεις ἄνω προστρέχει πᾶσι τοῖς ζῴοις ἢ γαστήρ, ὥστε τινὲς τοῦ πάθους αἰσθησὶν ἐναργῆ σχόντες ἐξέρπειν αὐτοῖς φασὶ τὴν κοιλίαν, ἐνίων δὲ μασωμένων ἔτι καὶ μήπω ἢ καλῶς ἐν τῷ στόματι τὰ σιτία κατεργασαμένων ἐξαρπάζει φανερώς ἀκόντων. ἐφ' ὧν οὖν ζῶων φύσει λαιμάργων ὑπαρχόντων ἢ τ' εὐρυχωρία τοῦ στόματος ἐστὶ δαψιλῆς ἢ τε τῆς γαστρὸς θέσις ἐγγύς, ὡς ἐπὶ συνόδοντός τε καὶ χάννης, οὐδὲν θαυμαστόν, ὅταν ἱκανῶς πεινάσαντα διώκη τὴν τῶν μικροτέρων ζῶων, εἴτ' ἤδη πλησίον ἢ τοῦ συλλαβεῖν, ἀνατρέχειν ἐπειρούσης τῆς ἐπιθυμίας εἰς τὸ στόμα τὴν γαστέρα. γενέσθαι δ' ἄλλως ἀμήχανον τοῦτο μὴ οὐχ ὥσπερ διὰ χειρὸς τοῦ στομάχου τῆς γαστρὸς ἐπισπωμένης εἰς ἑαυτὴν τὰ σιτία. καθάπερ γὰρ καὶ ἡμεῖς ὑπὸ προθυμίας ἐνίοτε τῇ χειρὶ συνεπεκτείνομεν ὅλους ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς ἕνεκα τοῦ θᾶττον ἐπιδράξασθαι τοῦ προκειμένου σώματος, οὕτω καὶ ἡ γαστήρ οἷον χειρὶ τῷ στομάχῳ συνεπεκτείνεται. καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἐφ' ὧν ζῶων ἅμα τὰ τρία ταυτὶ συνέπεσε, ἔφεσις τε σφοδρὰ τῆς τροφῆς ὁ τε στόμαχος μικρὸς ἢ τ' εὐρυχωρία τοῦ στόματος δαψιλῆς, ἐπὶ τούτων ὀλίγη ῥοπή τῆς ἐπεκτάσεως εἰς τὸ στόμα τὴν κοιλίαν ὅλην ἀναφέρει.

175 Ἦρκει μὲν οὖν ἴσως ἀνδρὶ φυσικῶ παρ' αὐτῆς μόνης τῆς κατασκευῆς τῶν ὀργάνων τὴν ἐνδειξὴν τῆς ἐνεργείας λαμβάνειν. οὐ γὰρ διὴ μάτην γ' ἂν ἡ φύσις ἐκ δυοῖν χιτῶνων ἐναντίως ἀλλήλοις ἐχόντων ἀπειργάσατο τὸν οἰσοφάγον, εἰ μὴ καὶ διαφόρως ἐκάτερος αὐτῶν ἐνεργεῖν ἐμελλεν. ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ πάντα μᾶλλον ἢ τὰ τῆς φύσεως ἔργα διαγιγνώσκουν οἱ περὶ τὸν Ἑρασίστρατον εἰσὶν ἱκανοί, φέρε κάκ τῆς τῶν ζῶων ἀνατομῆς ἐπιδείξωμεν αὐτοῖς, ὡς ἐκάτερος τῶν χιτῶνων ἐνεργεῖ τὴν εἰρημένην ἐνέργειαν. εἰ δὴ τι λαβὼν ζῶον, εἴτα γυμνώσας αὐτοῦ τὰ περικείμενα τῷ στομάχῳ σώματα χωρὶς τοῦ διατεμεῖν τινα τῶν νεύρων ἢ τῶν ἀρτηριῶν ἢ τῶν φλεβῶν τῶν αὐτόθι τεταγμένων ἐθέλοις ἀπὸ τῆς γένυος ἕως τοῦ θώρακος εὐθείας τομαῖς διελεῖν τὸν ἔξω χιτῶνα τὸν τὰς ἐγκαρσίας ἵνας ἔχοντα κάπειτα τῷ ζῴῳ τροφήν προσενέγκοις, ὅψει καταπίνον αὐτὸ καίτοι τῆς περισταλτικῆς ἐνεργείας ἀπολωλυίας. εἰ δ' αὖ πάλιν ἐφ' ἐτέρου ζῴου διατέμοις ἀμφοτέρους τοὺς χιτῶνας τομαῖς ἐγκαρσίαις, θεάσῃ καὶ τοῦτο καταπίνον οὐκέτ' ἐνεργοῦντος τοῦ ἐντὸς. ὡ

176 δῆλον, ὅτι καὶ διὰ θατέρου μὲν αὐτῶν καταπίνειν οἷόν τ' ἐστίν, ἢ ἀλλὰ χειρὸν ἢ δι' ἀμφοτέρων. πρὸς γὰρ αὐτὸ τοῖς ἄλλοις καὶ τοῦτ' ἐστὶ θεάσασθαι σαφῶς ἐπὶ τῆς εἰρημένης ἀνατομῆς, ὡς ἐν τῷ καταπίνειν ὑποπίμπλαται πνεύματος ὁ στόμαχος τοῦ συγκαταπινομένου τοῖς σιτίοις, ὃ περιστελλομένου μὲν τοῦ ἔξωθεν χιτῶνος ὠθεῖται ῥαδίως εἰς τὴν γαστέρα σὺν τοῖς ἐδέσμασι, μόνου δὲ τοῦ ἔνδον ὑπάρχοντος ἐμποδῶν ἴσταται τῇ φορᾷ τῶν σιτίων διατεῖνον τ' αὐτὸν καὶ τὴν ἐνέργειαν ἐμποδίζον.

177 Ἀλλ' οὕτε τούτων οὐδὲν Ἑρασίστρατος εἶπεν οὐθ' ὡς ἡ σκολιὰ θέσις τοῦ στομάχου διαβάλλει σαφῶς τὸ δόγμα τῶν νομιζόντων ὑπὸ τῆς ἄνωθεν βολῆς μόνης ποδηγούμενα μέχρι τῆς γαστρὸς ἰέναι τὰ καταπινόμενα. μόνον δ' ὅτι πολλὰ τῶν μακροτραχήλων ζῶων ἐπικεκυφῶτα καταπίνει, καλῶς εἶπεν. ὡ δῆλον, ὅτι τὸ φαινόμενον οὐ τὸ πῶς καταπίνομεν ἀποδείκνυσιν, ἀλλὰ τὸ πῶς οὐ καταπίνομεν· ὅτι γὰρ μὴ διὰ μόνης τῆς ἄνωθεν βολῆς, ἐκ τούτου δῆλον· οὐ μὴν εἴθ' ἔλκούσης τῆς κοιλίας εἴτε παράγοντος αὐτὰ τοῦ στομάχου, δῆλον ἤδη πω. ἀλλ' ἡμεῖς γε ἢ πάντας τοὺς λογισμοὺς εἰπόντες τούτ' ἐκ τῆς κατασκευῆς τῶν ὀργάνων ὀρωμένων καὶ τοὺς ἀπὸ τῶν ἄλλων συμπτωμάτων τῶν τε πρὸ τοῦ γυμνωθῆναι τὸν στόμαχος καὶ γυμνωθέντος, ὡς ὀλίγω πρόσθεν ἐλέγομεν, ἱκανῶς ἐνδειξάμεθα τοῦ μὲν ἔλκειν ἕνεκα τὸν ἐντὸς χιτῶνα, τοῦ δ' ἀπωθεῖν τὸν ἐκτὸς γεγυῶνα.

Προϋθέμεθα μὲν οὖν ἀποδείξαι τὴν καθεκτικὴν δύναμιν ἐν ἐκάστῳ τῶν ὀργάνων οὖσαν, ὥσπερ ἐν τῷ πρόσθεν λόγῳ τὴν ἐλκτικὴν τε καὶ προσέτι τὴν ἀλλοιωτικὴν. ὑπὸ δὲ τῆς ἀκολουθίας τοῦ λόγου τὰς τέτταρας ἀπεδείξαμεν ὑπαρχούσας τῇ γαστρὶ, τὴν ἐλκτικὴν μὲν ἐν τῷ καταπίνειν, τὴν καθεκτικὴν δ' ἐν τῷ πέττειν, τὴν ἀπωστικὴν δ' ἐν τοῖς ἐμέτοις καὶ ταῖς τῶν πεπεμμένων σιτίων εἰς τὸ λεπτὸν ἔντερον ὑποχωρήσεσιν, αὐτὴν δὲ τὴν πέψιν ἀλλοίωσιν ὑπάρχειν.

IX

178 Οὐκ οὐκ ἐτ' ἀπορήσομεν οὐδὲ περὶ τοῦ σπληνός, εἰ ἔλκει μὲν τὸ οἰκεῖον, ἀποκρίνει δὲ τὸ ἀλλότριον, ἀλλοιοῦν δὲ καὶ κατέχειν, ὅσον ἂν ἐπισπάσῃται, πέφυκεν, οὐδὲ περὶ ἥπατος ἢ φλεβός ἢ ἀρτηρίας ἢ καρδίας ἢ τῶν ἢ ἄλλων τινός· ἀναγκαῖαι γὰρ ἐδείχθησαν αἱ τέτταρες αὐταὶ δυνάμεις ἅπαντι μορίῳ τῷ μέλλοντι θρέψεσθαι καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' αὐτὰς ὑπερέτιδας εἶναι θρέψεως ἔφαμεν· ὡς γὰρ τὸ τῶν ἀνθρώπων

Pg 270
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 272
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 274
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 276
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

ἀποπάτημα τοῖς κυσὶν ἡδιστον, οὕτω καὶ τὰ τοῦ ἥπατος περιττώματα τὸ μὲν τῷ σπληνί, τὸ δὲ τῇ χοληδόχῳ κύστει, τὸ δὲ τοῖς νεφροῖς οἰκεῖόν.

X

Καὶ λέγειν ἔτι περὶ τῆς τούτων γενέσεως οὐκ ἂν ἐθέλοιμι μεθ' Ἴπποκράτην καὶ Πλάτωνα καὶ Ἀριστοτέλην καὶ Διοκλέα καὶ Πραξαγόραν καὶ Φιλότημον· οὐδὲ γὰρ οὐδὲ περὶ τῶν δυνάμεων εἶπον ἂν, εἴ τις τῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἀκριβῶς ἐξειργάσατο τὸν ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν λόγον.

179 Ἐπει δ' οἱ μὲν παλαιοὶ καλῶς ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν ἀποφηνάμενοι παρέλιπον ἀγωνίσασθαι τῷ λόγῳ, μὴδ' ὑπονοήσαντες ἔσεσθαι τινὰς εἰς τοσοῦτον ἀναισχύντους σοφιστάς, ὡς ἀντιλέγειν ἐπιχειρήσαι τοῖς ἐναργέσιν, οἱ νεώτεροι δὲ τὸ μὲν τι νικηθέντες ὑπὸ τῶν σοφισμάτων ἐπέισθησαν αὐτοῖς, τὸ δὲ τι καὶ ἀντιλέγειν ἐπιχειρήσαντες ἀποδεῖν μοι πολὺ τῆς τῶν παλαιῶν ἔδοξαν δυνάμεως, || διὰ τοῦθ', ὡς ἂν ἐκείνων αὐτῶν, εἶπερ ἔτ' ἦν τις, ἀγωνίσασθαι μοι δοκεῖ πρὸς τοὺς ἀνατρέποντας τῆς τέχνης τὰ κάλλιστα, καὶ αὐτὸς οὕτως ἐπειράθην συνθεῖναι τοὺς λόγους.

Pg 278
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ἵτι δ' ἢ οὐδὲν ἢ παντάπασιν ἀνύσω τι σμικρὸν, οὐκ ἀγνοῶ· πάμπολλα γὰρ εὐρίσκω τελῶς μὲν ἀποδεδειγμένα τοῖς παλαιοῖς, οὔτε δὲ συνετὰ τοῖς πολλοῖς τῶν νῦν δι' ἀμαθίαν ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐπιχειρούμενα γινώσκεσθαι διὰ ῥαθυμίαν, οὐτ', εἰ καὶ γνωσθεῖη τινί, δικαίως ἐξεταζόμενα.

180 Χρῆ γὰρ τὸν μέλλοντα γνῶσεσθαι τι τῶν πολλῶν ἄμεινον εὐθὺς μὲν καὶ τῇ φύσει καὶ τῇ πρώτῃ διδασκαλίᾳ πολὺ τῶν ἄλλων διενεγκεῖν· ἐπειδὴν δὲ γένηται μειράκιον, ἀληθείας τινὰ σχεῖν ἐρωτικὴν μαυρίαν, ὡσπερ ἐνθουσιῶντα καὶ μὴθ' ἡμέρας μήτε νυκτὸς διαλείπειν σπεύδοντά τε καὶ συντεταμένον ἐκμαθεῖν, ὅσα τοῖς ἐνδοξοτάτοις εἴρηται τῶν παλαιῶν· ἐπειδὴν δ' ἐκμάθη, κρίνειν αὐτὰ καὶ βασανίζει χρόνῳ παμπόλλῳ καὶ σκοπεῖν, πόσα μὲν ὁμολογεῖ τοῖς ἐναργῶς φαινομένοις, πόσα δὲ διαφέρεται, || καὶ οὕτω τὰ μὲν αἰρεῖσθαι, τὰ δ' ἀποστρέφεσθαι. τῷ μὲν δὴ τοιοῦτῳ πάνυ σφόδρα χρησίμους ἤλπικα τοὺς ἡμετέρους ἔσεσθαι λόγους· εἶεν δ' ἂν ὀλίγοι παντάπασιν οὔτοι· τοῖς δ' ἄλλοις οὕτω γενήσεται τὸ γράμμα περιττὸν, ὡς εἰ καὶ μῦθον ὄνῃ τις λέγοι.

Pg 280
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

XI

Συμπεραντέον οὖν ἡμῖν τὸν λόγον ἔνεκα τῶν τῆς ἀληθείας ἐφιεμένων ὅσα λείπει κατ' αὐτὸν ἔτι προσθεῖσιν. ὡς γὰρ ἡ γαστήρ ἔλκει μὲν ἐναργῶς καὶ κατασπᾶ τὰ σιτία τοῖς σφόδρα πεινώδεσι, πρὶν ἀκριβῶς ἐν τῷ στόματι λειωθῆναι, δυσχεραίνει δὲ καὶ ἀπωθεῖται τοῖς ἀποσίτοις τε καὶ πρὸς ἀνάγκην ἐσθίουσιν, οὕτω καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ὀργάνων ἕκαστον ἀμφοτέρας ἔχει τὰς δυνάμεις, τὴν τε τῶν οἰκείων ἐλκτικὴν καὶ τὴν τῶν ἀλλοτρίων ἀποκριτικὴν. καὶ διὰ τοῦτο, κἂν ἐξ ἐνὸς ἢ χιτῶνος ὄργανον τι συνεστῶς, ὡσπερ καὶ αἱ κύστες ἀμφοτέραι καὶ αἱ μήτραι καὶ αἱ φλέβες, ἀμφοτέρα τῶν ἰνῶν ἔχει τὰ γένη, τῶν εὐθειῶν τε καὶ τῶν ἐγκαρσίων.

181 Καὶ μὲν γε καὶ τρίτον τι || γένος ἰνῶν ἐστὶ <τῶν> λοξῶν, ἔλαττον πολὺ τῷ πλήθει τῶν προειρημένων δύο γενῶν. εὐρίσκεται δ' ἐν μὲν τοῖς ἐκ δυοῖν χιτῶνων συνεστηκόσιν ὀργάνοις ἐν θατέρῳ μόνῳ ταῖς εὐθείαις ἰσὶν ἀναμειγμένον, ἐν δὲ τοῖς ἐξ ἐνὸς ἅμα τοῖς ἄλλοις δύο γένεσι. συνεπιλαμβάνουσι δ' αὐταὶ μέγιστον τῆς τῆς καθεκτικῆς ὀνομασθείσης δυνάμεως ἐνεργεῖα· δεῖται γὰρ ἐν τούτῳ τῷ χρόνῳ πανταχόθεν ἐσφίγγεσθαι καὶ περιτετάσθαι τοῖς ἐνυπάρχουσι τὸ μόριον, ἢ μὲν γαστήρ ἐν τῷ τῆς πέψεως, αἱ μήτραι δ' ἐν τῷ τῆς κυήσεως χρόνῳ παντί.

Pg 282
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

182 Ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ ὁ τῆς φλεβός χιτῶν εἷς ὢν ἐκ πολυειδῶν ἰνῶν ἐγένετο καὶ τῶν τῆς ἀρτηρίας ὁ μὲν ἔξωθεν ἐκ τῶν στρογγύλων, ὁ δ' ἔσωθεν ἐκ μὲν τῶν εὐθειῶν πλείστων, ὀλίγων δὲ τινῶν σὺν αὐταῖς καὶ τῶν λοξῶν, ὥστε τὰς μὲν φλέβας ταῖς μήτραις καὶ ταῖς κύστεσι ἐοικέναι κατὰ γε τὴν τῶν ἰνῶν σύνθεσιν, εἰ καὶ τῷ πάχει λείπονται, τὰς δ' ἀρτηρίας τῇ γαστρί. μόνα δὲ πάντων ὀργάνων ἐκ δυοῖν θ' ἅμα καὶ ἀμφοτέρων ἐγκαρσίας ἐχόντων τὰς ἰνας ἐγένετο τὰ ἔντερα. τὸ δ' ὅτι βέλτιον ἦν || τῶν τ' ἄλλων ἕκαστῳ τοιοῦτῳ τὴν φύσιν ὑπάρχειν, οἶόνπερ καὶ νῦν ἐστὶ, τοῖς τ' ἐντέροις ἐκ δυοῖν ὁμοίων χιτῶνων συγκεῖσθαι, τῆς περὶ χρεῖας μορίων πραγματείας ἐστίν. οὐκ οὖν νῦν χρῆ ποθεῖν ἀκούειν περὶ τῶν τοιοῦτων, ὡσπερ οὐδὲ διὰ τί περὶ τοῦ πλήθους τῶν χιτῶνων ἕκαστου τῶν ὀργάνων διαπεφώνηται τοῖς ἀνατομικοῖς ἀνδράσι. ὑπὲρ μὲν γὰρ τούτων αὐτάρκως ἐν τοῖς περὶ τῆς ἀνατομικῆς διαφωνίας εἴρηται· περὶ δὲ τοῦ διότι τοιοῦτον ἕκαστον ἐγένετο τῶν ὀργάνων, ἐν τοῖς περὶ χρεῖας μορίων εἰρήσεται.

XII

183 Νυνὶ δ' οὐδέτερον τούτων πρόκειται λέγειν, ἀλλὰ τὰς φυσικὰς δυνάμεις μόνας ἀποδεικνύειν ἐν ἑκάστῳ τῶν ὀργάνων τέτταρας ὑπαρχούσας. ἐπὶ τοῦτ' οὖν πάλιν ἐπανελθόντες ἀναμνήσωμέν τε τῶν ἔμπροσθεν εἰρημένων ἐπιθώμέν τε κεφαλὴν ἡδη τῷ λόγῳ παντὶ τὸ λείπον ἔτι προσθέντες. ἐπειδὴ γὰρ ἕκαστον τῶν ἐν τῷ ζῷῳ μορίων ἔλκειν εἰς ἑαυτὸ τὸν οἰκεῖον χυμὸν ἀποδέδεικται καὶ πρώτη σχεδὸν αὕτη τῶν φυσικῶν ἐστὶ δυνάμεων, ἐφεξῆς || ἐκείνῳ γνωστέου, ὡς οὐ πρότερον ἀποτρίβεται

Pg 284
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

τὴν ἐλχθεῖσαν <τροφήν> ἤτοι σύμπασαν ἢ καὶ τι περιττώμα αὐτῆς, πρὶν ἂν εἰς ἐναντίαν μεταπέσῃ διάθεσιν ἢ αὐτὸ τὸ ὄργανον ἢ καὶ τῶν περιεχομένων ἐν αὐτῷ τὰ πλεῖστα. ἢ μὲν οὖν γαστήρ, ἐπειδὴ μὲν ἱκανῶς ἐμπλησθῆ τῶν σιτίων καὶ τὸ χρηστότατον αὐτῶν εἰς τοὺς ἑαυτῆς χιτῶνας ἐναπόθηται βδάλουσα, τμηκαῦτ' ἦδη τὸ λοιπὸν ἀποτριβεται καθάπερ ἄχθος ἀλλότριον· αἱ κύστεις δ', ἐπειδὴν ἕκαστον τῶν ἐλχθέντων ἢ τῷ πλήθει διατείνουσι ἢ τῇ ποιότητι δάκνου ἀνιαρὸν γένηται.

184 Τῷ δ' αὐτῷ τρόπῳ καὶ αἱ μήτραι· ἤτοι γὰρ, ἐπειδὴν μηκέτι φέρωσι διατεινόμεναι, τὸ λυποῦν ἀποθέσθαι σπεύδουσιν ἢ τῇ ποιότητι δακνόμεναι τῶν ἐκχυθέντων εἰς αὐτὰς ὑγρῶν. ἐκάτερόν δὲ τῶν εἰρημένων γίνεται μὲν καὶ βιαίως ἔστιν ὅτε καὶ ἀμβλώσκουσι τμηκαῦτα, γίνεται δ' ὡς τὰ πολλὰ καὶ προσηκόντως, ὅπερ οὐκ ἀμβλώσκειν ἀλλ' ἀποκνίσκειν τε καὶ τίκτειν ὀνομάζεται. τοῖς μὲν οὖν ἀμβλωθριδίσι φαρμάκοις ἢ τισιν ἄλλοις παθήμασι διαφθειροῦσι τὸ ἔμβρυον ἢ τινος τῶν ὑμένων αὐτοῦ ῥηγνύουσιν αἱ ἀμβλώσεις ἔπονται, οὕτω δὲ κάπειδαν ἀνιαθῶσί ποθ' αἱ μήτραι κακῶς ἔχουσαι τῇ διατάσει, ταῖς δὲ τῶν ἐμβρύων αὐτῶν κινήσει ταῖς σφοδροτάταις οἱ τόκοι, καθάπερ καὶ τοῦθ' Ἰπποκράτει καλῶς εἴρηται. κοινὸν δ' ἀπασῶν τῶν διαθέσεων ἡ ἀνία καὶ ταύτης αἴτιον τριττὸν ἢ ὄγκος περιττὸς ἢ τι βάρος ἢ δῆξις· ὄγκος μὲν, ἐπειδὴν μηκέτι φέρωσι διατεινόμεναι, βάρος δ', ἐπειδὴν ὑπὲρ τὴν ῥώμην αὐτῶν ἢ τὸ περιεχόμενον, δῆξις δ', ἐπειδὴν ἤτοι τὰ πρότερον ἐν τοῖς ὑμέσιν ὑγρὰ στεγόμενα ῥαγέντων αὐτῶν εἰς αὐτὰς ἐκχυθῆ τὰς μήτρας ἢ καὶ σύμπαν ἀποφθαρὲν τὸ κῆμα σηπόμενον τε καὶ διαλυόμενον εἰς μοχθηροὺς ἰχώρας οὕτως ἐρεθίζῃ τε καὶ δάκνη τὸν χιτῶνα τῶν ὑστερῶν.

Pg 286
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

185 Ἀνάλογον οὖν ἐν ἅπασιν τοῖς ὀργανοῖς ἕκαστα τῶν τ' ἔργων αὐτῶν τῶν φυσικῶν καὶ μέντοι τῶν παθημάτων τε καὶ νοσημάτων φαίνεται γινόμενα, τὰ μὲν ἐναργῶς καὶ σαφῶς οὕτως, ὡς ἀποδείξεως δεῖσθαι μηδὲν, τὰ δ' ἤττον μὲν ἐναργῶς, οὐ μὴν ἄγνωστα γε παντάπασιν τοῖς ἢ ἐθέλουσι προσέχειν τὸν νοῦν.

186 Ἐπὶ μὲν οὖν τῆς γαστρὸς αἱ τε δῆξις ἐναργεῖς, διότι πλείστης αἰσθήσεως μετέχει, τὰ τ' ἄλλα παθήματα τὰ τε ναυτίαν ἐμποιοῦντα καὶ οἱ καλούμενοι καρδιωγοὶ σαφῶς ἐνδείκνυνται τὴν ἀποκριτικὴν τε καὶ ἀπωστικὴν τῶν ἀλλοτρίων δύναμιν, οὕτω δὲ κάπιν τῶν ὑστερῶν τε καὶ τῆς κύστεως τῆς τὸ οὔρον ὑποδεχομένης· ἐναργῶς γὰρ οὖν καὶ αὕτη φαίνεται μέχρι τοσοῦτου τὸ ὑγρὸν ὑποδεχομένη τε καὶ ἀθροίζουσα, ἄχρις ἂν ἤτοι πρὸς τοῦ πλήθους αὐτοῦ διατεινομένη μηκέτι φέρῃ τὴν ἀνίαν ἢ πρὸς τῆς ποιότητος δακνομένη· χρονίζον γὰρ ἕκαστον τῶν περιττωμάτων ἐν τῷ σώματι σήπεται δηλονότι, τὸ μὲν ἐλάττονι, τὸ δὲ πλείονι χρόνῳ, καὶ οὕτω δακνώδεις τε καὶ δριμύ καὶ ἀνιαρὸν τοῖς περιέχουσι γίνεται. οὐ μὴν ἐπὶ γε τῆς ἐπὶ τῷ ἥπατι κύστεως ὁμοίως ἔχει· ὡς δὴλον, ὅτι νεύρων ἤκιστα μετέχει. χρῆ δὲ κἀνταῦθα τὸν γε φυσικὸν ἀνδρα τὸ ἀνάλογον ἐξευρίσκειν. εἰ γὰρ ἔλκειν τε τὸν οἰκεῖον ἀπεδείχθη χυμὸν, ὡς φαίνεται πολλὰκις μεστήν, ἀποκρίνεται τε τὸν αὐτὸν τούτου οὐκ εἰς μακρὰν, ἀναγκαῖόν ἐστιν αὐτὴν ἢ διὰ τὸ πλῆθος βαρυνομένην ἢ τῆς ποιότητος μεταβαλλούσης ἐπὶ τὸ δακνώδεις τε καὶ δριμύ τῆς ἀποκρίσεως ἐφίεσθαι. οὐ γὰρ δὴ τὰ μὲν σιτία τὴν ἀρχαίαν ὑπαλλάττει ποιότητα ταχέως οὕτως, ὥστ', ἐπειδὴν ἐμπέση τοῖς λεπτοῖς ἐντέροις, εὐθὺς εἶναι κόπρον, ἢ χολὴ δ' οὐ πολὺ μᾶλλον ἢ τὸ οὔρον, ἐπειδὴν ἅπαξ ἐκπέση τῶν φλεβῶν, ἐξαλλάττει τὴν ποιότητα, τάχιστα μεταβάλλοντα καὶ σηπόμενα. καὶ μὴν εἴπερ ἐπὶ τε τῶν κατὰ τὰς ὑστέρας καὶ τὴν κοιλίαν καὶ τὰ ἔντερα καὶ προσέτι τὴν τὸ οὔρον ὑποδεχομένην κύστιν ἐναργῶς φαίνεται διάτασις τις ἢ δῆξις ἢ ἄχθος ἐπεγεῖρον ἕκαστον τῶν ὀργάνων εἰς ἀπόκρισιν, οὐδὲν χαλεπὸν κάπιν τῆς χοληδόχου κύστεως ταῦτο τοῦτ' ἐννοεῖν ἐπὶ τε τῶν ἄλλων ἀπάντων ὀργάνων, ἐξ ὧν δηλονότι καὶ αἱ ἀρτηρίαι καὶ αἱ φλέβες εἰσίν.

Pg 288
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

XIII

187 Οὐ μὴν οὐδὲ τὸ διὰ τοῦ αὐτοῦ πόρου τὴν θ' ὀλκὴν γίνεσθαι καὶ τὴν ἀπόκρισιν ἐν διαφέρουσι ἢ χρόνοις οὐδὲν ἔτι χαλεπὸν ἐξευρεῖν, εἰ γε καὶ τῆς γαστρὸς ὁ στόμαχος οὐ μόνον ἐδέσματα καὶ πόματα παράγων εἰς αὐτήν, ἀλλὰ καὶ ταῖς ναυτίαις τὴν ἐναντίαν ὑπηρεσίαν ὑπηρετῶν ἐναργῶς φαίνεται, καὶ τῆς ἐπὶ τῷ ἥπατι κύστεως ὁ αὐχὴν εἰς ὧν ἅμα μὲν πληροὶ δι' αὐτοῦ τὴν κύστιν, ἅμα δ' ἐκκενοῖ, καὶ τῶν μητρῶν ὁ στόμαχος ὡσαύτως ὁδός ἐστιν εἰσω μὲν τοῦ σπέρματος, ἔξω δὲ τοῦ κῆματος.

Pg 290
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ἀλλὰ κἀνταῦθα πάλιν ἢ μὲν ἐκκριτικὴ δύναμις ἐναργῆς, οὐ μὴν ὁμοίως γ' αὐτῇ σαφῆς τοῖς πολλοῖς ἢ ἐλκτική· ἀλλ' Ἰπποκράτης μὲν ἀρρώστου μήτρας αἰτιώμενος αὐχένα φησί· “Οὐ γὰρ δύναται αὐτέης ὁ στόμαχος εἰρῶσαι τὴν γονήν.”

Ἐρασίστρατος δὲ καὶ Ἀσκληπιάδης εἰς τοσοῦτον ἤκουσι σοφίας, ὥστ' οὐ μόνον τὴν κοιλίαν καὶ τὰς μήτρας ἀποστεροῦσι τῆς τοιαύτης δυνάμεως ἄλλα καὶ τὴν ἐπὶ τῷ ἥπατι κύστιν ἅμα τοῖς νεφροῖς. καίτοι γ' ὅτι μηδ' εἶπεῖν δυνατὸν ἕτερον αἴτιον ἢ οὔρων ἢ χολῆς διακρίσεως, ἐν τῷ πρώτῳ δέδεικται λόγῳ.

188 Καὶ μήτραν οὖν καὶ γαστέρα καὶ τὴν ἐπὶ τῷ ἥπατι κύστιν δι' ἐνὸς καὶ ταύτου στομάχου τὴν θ' ὀλκὴν καὶ τὴν ἀπόκρισιν εὐρίσκοντες ποιούμενας μηκέτι θαυμάζομεν, εἰ καὶ διὰ τῶν φλεβῶν ἢ φύσις ἐκκρίνει πολλάκις εἰς τὴν γαστέρα περιττώματα. τούτου δ' ἔτι μᾶλλον οὐ χρῆ θαυμάζειν, εἰ, δι' ὧν εἰς ἥπαρ ἀνεδόθη φλεβῶν ἐκ γαστρὸς, αὐθις εἰς αὐτὴν ἐξ ἥπατος ἐν ταῖς μακροτέραις ἀσιτίαις ἔλκεσθαι τις δύναται τροφή. τὸ γὰρ τοῖς τοιοῦτοις ἀπιστεῖν ὅμοιον ἐστὶ δῆπου τῷ μηκέτι πιστεύειν μηδ' ὅτι τὰ καθάιροντα φάρμακα διὰ τῶν αὐτῶν στομάτων ἐξ ὄλου

Pg 292
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

189 τοῦ σώματος εἰς τὴν γαστέρα τοὺς οἰκείους ἐπισπᾶται χυμούς, δι' ὧν ἔμπροσθεν ἢ ἀνάδοσις ἐγένετο, ἀλλ' ἕτερα μὲν ζητεῖν ἀναδόσεως, ἕτερα δὲ καθάρσεως στόματα. καὶ μὴν εἴπερ ἐν καὶ ταυτό στόμα διτταῖς ὑπηρετεῖ δυνάμεσιν, ἐν διαφόροις χρόνοις εἰς τάναντία τὴν ὀλκὴν ποιουμέναις, ἔμπροσθεν μὲν τῇ κατὰ τὸ ἥπαρ, ἐν δὲ τῷ τῆς καθάρσεως καιρῷ τῇ τοῦ φαρμάκου, τί θαυμαστόν ἐστὶ διττὴν ὑπηρεσίαν τε καὶ χρεῖαν εἶναι ταῖς φλεβῖ ταῖς ἐν τῷ μέσῳ τεταγμέναις ἥπατος τε καὶ τῶν κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν, ὡσθ', ὁπότε μὲν ἐν τούτοις ἄφθονος εἴη περιεχομένη τροφή, διὰ τῶν εἰρημένων εἰς || ἥπαρ ἀναφέρεσθαι φλεβῶν, ὁπότε δ' εἴη κενὰ καὶ δεόμενα τρέφεσθαι, διὰ τῶν αὐτῶν αὐθις ἐξ ἥπατος ἔλκεσθαι;

Πᾶν γὰρ ἐκ παντὸς ἔλκει φαίνεται καὶ παντὶ μεταδιδόναι καὶ μία τις εἶναι σύρροια καὶ σύμπνοια πάντων, καθάπερ καὶ τοῦθ' ὁ θεϊότατος Ἱπποκράτης εἶπεν. ἔλκει μὲν οὖν τὸ ἰσχυρότερον, ἐκκενοῦται δὲ τὸ ἀσθενέστερον.

190 Ἰσχυρότερον δὲ καὶ ἀσθενέστερον ἕτερον ἑτέρου μόριον ἢ ἀπλῶς καὶ φύσει καὶ κοινῇ πᾶσιν ἐστὶν ἢ ἰδίως τῷδε τι γίνεσθαι. φύσει μὲν καὶ κοινῇ πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις θ' ἅμα καὶ ζῴοις ἢ μὲν καρδίᾳ τοῦ ἥπατος, τὸ δ' ἥπαρ τῶν ἐντέρων τε καὶ τῆς γαστρός, αἱ δ' ἀρτηρία τῶν φλεβῶν ἐλκύσαι τε τὸ χρήσιμον ἑαυταῖς ἀποκρίναί τε τὸ μὴ τοιοῦτον ἰσχυρότεροι. καθ' ἕκαστον δ' ἡμῶν ἰδίως ἐν μὲν τῷδε τῷ καιρῷ τὸ ἥπαρ ἰσχυρότερον ἔλκει, ἢ γαστήρ δ' ἐν τῷδε. πολλῆς μὲν γὰρ ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ περιεχομένης τροφῆς καὶ σφοδρῶς ὀρεγομένου τε καὶ χρῆζοντος τοῦ ἥπατος, πάντως ἰσχυρότερον ἔλκει τὸ σπλάγγχον· ἔμπαλιν δὲ τοῦ μὲν ἥπατος ἐμπεπλησμένου τε καὶ δια||τεταμένου, τῆς γαστρός δ' ὀρεγομένης καὶ κενῆς ὑπαρχούσης ἢ τῆς ὀλκῆς ἰσχυρὸς εἰς ἐκείνην μεθίσταται.

Ὡς γάρ, εἰ κἂν ταῖς χερσὶ τινα σιτία κατέχοντες ἀλλήλων ἀρπάζοιμεν, εἰ μὲν ὁμοίως εἴημεν δεόμενοι, περιγίγνεσθαι τὸν ἰσχυρότερον εἰκόσ, εἰ δ' οὗτος μὲν ἐμπεπλησμένος εἴη καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἀμελῶς κατέχων τὰ περιττὰ ἢ καὶ τι μεταδοῦναι ποθῶν, ὁ δ' ἀσθενέστερος ὀρέγοιτο δεινῶς, οὐδὲν ἂν εἴη κώλυμα τοῦ μὴ πάντα λαβεῖν αὐτὸν, οὕτω καὶ ἢ γαστήρ ἐκ τοῦ ἥπατος ἐπισπᾶται ῥαδίως, ὅταν αὐτὴ μὲν ἰκανῶς ὀρέγηται τροφῆς, ἐμπεπλησμένον δ' ἢ τὸ σπλάγγχον. καὶ τοῦ γε μὴ πεινῆν ἐνίστε τὸ ζῶον ἢ περιουσία τῆς ἐν ἥπατι τροφῆς αἰτία· κρείττονα γὰρ ἔχουσα καὶ ἐτοιμοτέρην ἢ γαστήρ τροφήν οὐδὲν δεῖται τῆς ἔξωθεν· εἰ δὲ γέ ποτε δέοιτο μὲν, ἀποροίη δέ, πληροῦται περιττωμάτων. ἰχώρες δὲ τινὲς εἰσι ταῦτα χολώδεις τε καὶ φλεγματώδεις καὶ ὀρρώδεις, οὐς μόνους ἐλκούση μεθίησιν αὐτῇ τὸ ἥπαρ, ὅταν ποτὲ καὶ αὐτὴ δέηται τροφῆς.

191 Ὡσπερ οὖν ἐξ ἀλλήλων ἔλκει τὰ μόρια || τροφήν, οὕτω καὶ ἀποτίθεται ποτ' εἰς ἄλληλα τὸ περιττὸν καὶ ὡσπερ ἐλκόντων ἐπλεονέκτει τὸ ἰσχυρότερον, οὕτω καὶ ἀποτιθεμένων καὶ τῶν γε καλουμένων ῥευμάτων ἤδη ἢ πρόφασις. ἕκαστον γὰρ τῶν μορίων ἔχει τινὰ τόνον σύμφυτον, ᾧ διωθεῖται τὸ περιττὸν. ὅταν οὖν ἐν ἐξ αὐτῶν ἄρρωστότερον γένηται κατὰ δὴ τινα διάθεσιν, ἐξ ἀπάντων εἰς ἐκεῖνο συρρεῖν ἀνάγκη τὰ περιττώματα. τὸ μὲν γὰρ ἰσχυρότατον ἐναποτίθεται τοῖς πλησίον ἅπασιν, ἐκείνων δ' αὐτὸ πάλιν ἕκαστον εἰς ἕτερον ἄττα τῶν ἀσθενεστέρων, εἴτ' αὐθις ἐκείνων ἕκαστον εἰς ἄλλα καὶ τοῦτ' ἐπὶ πλεῖστον γίνεσθαι, μέχρι περ ἂν ἐξ ἀπάντων ἐλαυνόμενον τὸ περίττωμα καθ' ἕν τι μείνη τῶν ἀσθενεστάτων· ἐντεῦθεν γὰρ οὐκέτ' εἰς ἄλλο δύναται μεταρρεῖν, ὡς ἂν μήτε δεχομένου τινὸς αὐτὸ τῶν ἰσχυροτέρων μήτ' ἀπώσασθαι δυναμένου τοῦ πεπονηθότος.

192 Ἀλλὰ περὶ μὲν τῶν παθῶν τῆς γενέσεως καὶ τῆς ἰάσεως αὐθις ἡμῶν ἐπιδεικνύντων ἰκανὰ κάξ ἐκείνων ἔσται λαβεῖν μαρτύρια τῶν ἐν τῷδε τῷ λόγῳ παντὶ || δεδειγμένων ὀρθῶς. ὁ δ' ἐν τῷ παρόντι δεῖξαι προὔκειτο, πάλιν ἀναλάβωμεν, ὡς οὐδὲν θαυμαστόν ἐξ ἥπατος ἦκειν τινὰ τροφήν ἐντέροις τε καὶ γαστρὶ διὰ τῶν αὐτῶν φλεβῶν, δι' ὧν ἔμπροσθεν ἐξ ἐκείνων εἰς ἥπαρ ἀνεδίδοτο. καὶ πολλοῖς ἀθρόως τε καὶ τελέως ἀποστάσιν ἰσχυρῶν γυμνασίων ἢ τι κώλον ἀποκοπεῖσιν αἵματος διὰ τῶν ἐντέρων γίνεσθαι κένωσις ἐκ τινῶν περιόδων, ὡς πού καὶ Ἱπποκράτης ἔλεγεν, οὐδὲν μὲν ἄλλο λυποῦσα, καθαίρουσα δ' ὀξέως τὸ πᾶν σῶμα καὶ τὰς πλησμονὰς ἐκκενοῦσα, διὰ τῶν αὐτῶν δήπου φλεβῶν τῆς φορᾶς τῶν περιττῶν ἐπιτελουμένης, δι' ὧν ἔμπροσθεν ἢ ἀνάδοσις ἐγένετο.

Πολλάκις δ' ἐν νόσοις ἢ φύσις διὰ μὲν τῶν αὐτῶν δήπου φλεβῶν τὸ πᾶν ἐκκαθαίρει ζῶον, οὐ μὴν αἱματώδης γ' ἢ κένωσις αὐτοῖς, ἀλλὰ κατὰ τὸν λυποῦντα γίνεσθαι χυμόν. οὕτω δὲ κἂν ταῖς χολέρας ἐκκενοῦται τὸ πᾶν σῶμα διὰ τῶν εἰς ἔντερὰ τε καὶ γαστέρα καθηκουσῶν φλεβῶν.

193 Τὸ δ' οἶεσθαι μίαν εἶναι ταῖς ὑλαῖς φορὰν τελέως ἀγνωοῦντός ἐστι τὰς φυσικὰς || δυνάμεις τὰς τ' ἄλλας καὶ τὴν ἐκκριτικὴν ἐναντίαν οὔσαν τῇ ἐλκτικῇ· ταῖς γὰρ ἐναντίαις δυνάμεσιν ἐναντίας κινήσεις τε καὶ φορὰς τῶν ὑλῶν ἀναγκαῖον ἀκολουθεῖν. ἕκαστον γὰρ τῶν μορίων, ὅταν ἐλκύσῃ τὸν οἰκεῖον χυμόν, ἔπειτα κατάσχη καὶ ἀπολαύσῃ, τὸ περιττὸν ἅπα ἀποθέσθαι σπεύδει, καθότι μάλιστα δύναται τάχιστα θ' ἅμα καὶ κάλλιστα, κατὰ τὴν τοῦ περιττοῦ ῥοπήν.

Ὅθεν ἢ γαστήρ τὰ μὲν ἐπιπολάζοντα τῶν περιττωμάτων ἐμέτοις ἐκκαθαίρει, τὰ δ' ὑφιστάμενα διαρροίαις, καὶ τὸ γε ναυτιῶδες γίνεσθαι τὸ ζῶον τοῦτ' ἐστὶν ὀρμησαι τὴν γαστέρα κενωθῆναι δι' ἐμέτου. οὕτω δὲ δὴ τι βίαιον καὶ σφοδρὸν ἢ ἐκκριτικὴ δύναμις ἔχει, ὡστ' ἐν τοῖς εἰλεοῖς, ὅταν ἀποκλεισθῇ τελέως ἢ κάτω διεξοδος, ἐμεῖται κόπρος. καίτοι πρὶν διελεθεῖν τὸ τε λεπτὸν ἔντερον ἅπαν καὶ τὴν νῆστιν καὶ τὸν

Pg 294
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 296
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Pg 298
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

194 πυλωρόν καὶ τὴν γαστέρα καὶ τὸν οἰσοφάγον οὐχ οἶόν τε διὰ τοῦ στόματος ἐκπεσεῖν οὐδενὶ τοιούτῳ περιττώματι. τί δὴ θαυμαστόν, εἰ κάκ τῆς ἐσχάτης ἐπιφανείας τῆς
κατὰ τὸ δέρμα μέχρι τῶν ἐντέρων τε καὶ τῆς γαστρὸς ἀφικνοῖτό τι || μεταλαμβάνομενον, ὡς καὶ τοῦθ' Ἱπποκράτης ἡμᾶς ἐδίδαξεν, οὐ πνεῦμα μόνον ἢ
περιττώμα φάσκων ἄλλα καὶ τὴν τροφὴν αὐτὴν ἐκ τῆς ἐσχάτης ἐπιφανείας αὐθις ἐπὶ
τὴν ἀρχὴν, ὅθεν ἀνηνέχθη, καταφέρεσθαι. ἐλάχισται γὰρ ῥοπαὶ κινήσεων τὴν
ἐκκριτικὴν ταύτην οἰακίζουσι δύναμιν, ὡς ἂν διὰ τῶν ἐγκαρσίων μεν ἰδῶν
γιγνομένην, ὠκύτατα δὲ διαδιδομένην ἀπὸ τῆς κινήσεως ἀρχῆς ἐπὶ τὰ καταντικρὸν
πέρατα. οὐκ οὐκ ἀπεικὸς οὐδ' ἀδύνατον ἀήθει ποτὲ ψύξει τὸ πρὸς τῷ δέρματι μόριον
ἐξαίφνης πληθὲν ἅμα μὲν ἄρρωστότερον αὐτὸ γενόμενον, ἅμα δ' οἶον ἄχθος τι
μᾶλλον ἢ παρασκευὴν θρέψεως ἔχον τὴν ἔμπροσθεν ἀλύπως αὐτῷ παρεσπαρμένην
ὑγρότητα καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἀπωθεῖσθαι σπεύδον, ἅμα δὲ τῆς ἔξω φορᾶς ἀποκεκλεισμένης
τῆς πυκνώσει, πρὸς τὴν λοιπὴν ἐπιστραφεῖναι καὶ οὕτω βιασάμενον εἰς τὸ
195 παρακείμενον αὐτῷ μόριον ἀθρόως ἀπώσασθαι τὸ περιττόν, ἐκεῖνο δ' αὖ πάλιν εἰς
τὸ μετ' αὐτὸ, || καὶ τοῦτο μὴ παύσασθαι γιγνομένου, ἄχρις ἂν ἡ μετάληψις ἐπὶ τὰ
ἐντὸς πέρατα τῶν φλεβῶν τελευτήσῃ.

Αἱ μὲν δὴ τοιαῦται κινήσεις θάττον ἀποπαύονται, αἱ δ' ἀπὸ τῶν ἔνδοθεν
διερεθιζόντων, ὡς ἔν τε τοῖς καθαίρουσι φαρμάκοις καὶ ταῖς χολέραις ἰσχυρότεροι
τε πολὺ καὶ μονιμώτεροι γίνονται καὶ διαμένουσιν, ἔστ' ἂν καὶ ἡ περὶ τοῖς στόμασι
τῶν ἀγγείων διάθεσις, ἢ τὸ πλησίον ἔλκουσα, παραμένη. αὐτὴ μὲν γὰρ τὸ συνεχὲς
ἐκκενοῖ μόριον, ἐκεῖνο δ' αὖ τὸ μετ' αὐτὸ καὶ τοῦτ' οὐ παύεται μέχρι τῆς ἐσχάτης
ἐπιφανείας, ὥστε διαδιδόντων τῶν ἐφεξῆς ἀεὶ μορίων ἐτέρων ἐτέροις τὸ πρῶτον
πάθος ὠκύτατα διικνεῖσθαι μέχρι τῶν ἐσχάτων. οὕτως οὖν ἔχει καπὶ τῶν εἰλεῶν.
αὐτὸ μὲν γὰρ τὸ φλεγμαῖνον ἐντερον οὐτε τοῦ βάρους οὐτε τῆς δριμύτητος ἀνέχεται
τῶν περιττωμάτων καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἐκκρίνειν αὐτὰ σπεύδει καὶ ἀπωθεῖσθαι
πορρωτάτω. κωλυόμενον δὲ κάτω ποιεῖσθαι τὴν δίωσιν, ὅταν ἐνταυθοῖ ποτε τὸ
σφοδρότατον ἢ τῆς φλεγμονῆς, εἰς τὰ πλησιάζοντα τῶν ὑπερκειμένων ἐντέρων
196 ἀπωθεῖται. καὶ οὕτως ἤδη κατὰ || τὸ συνεχὲς τὴν ῥοπὴν τῆς ἐκκριτικῆς δυνάμεως
ἄνω ποιησαμένης ἄχρι τοῦ στόματος ἐπανέρχεται τὰ περιττώματα.

Ταῦτα μὲν οὖν δὴ κάν τοῖς τῶν νοσημάτων λογισμοῖς ἐπὶ πλέον εἰρήσεται. τὸ δ' ἐκ
παντὸς εἰς πᾶν φέρεσθαι τι καὶ μεταλαμβάνεσθαι καὶ μίαν ἀπάντων εἶναι σύμπνοιάν
τε καὶ σύρροισιν, ὡς Ἱπποκράτης ἔλεγεν, ἤδη μοι δοκῶ δεδειχθαι σαφῶς καὶ μηκέτ'
ἂν τινα, μηδ' εἰ βραδὺς αὐτῷ νοῦς ἐνεῖη, περὶ τῶν τοιούτων ἀπορήσαι μηδενός, οἶον
ὅπως ἢ γαστήρ ἢ τὰ ἔντερα τρέφεται καὶ τίνα τρόπον ἐκ τῆς ἐσχάτης ἐπιφανείας
ἔισω τι διικνεῖται. πάντων γὰρ τῶν μορίων ἔλκειν μὲν τὸ προσῆκόν τε καὶ φίλιον,
ἀποκρίνειν δὲ τὸ βαρῦνον ἢ δάκνον ἐχόντων δύναμιν οὐδὲν θαυμαστόν ἐναντίας
συνεχῶς γίνεσθαι κινήσεις ἐν αὐτοῖς, ὡς περ ἐπὶ τῆς καρδίας ὁράται σαφῶς καὶ
τῶν ἀρτηριῶν ἀπασῶν καὶ τοῦ θώρακος καὶ τοῦ πνεύμονος. ἐπὶ μὲν γε τούτων
ἀπάντων μόνον οὐ καθ' ἐκάστην καιροῦ ῥοπὴν τὰς ἐναντίας κινήσεις θ' ἅμα τῶν
197 ὀργάνων καὶ φορᾶς τῶν ὑλῶν || ἐναργῶς ἔστιν ἰδεῖν γιγνομένης. εἴτ' ἐπὶ μὲν τῆς
τραχείας ἀρτηρίας οὐκ ἀπορεῖς ἐναλλάξ ποτὲ μὲν εἴσω παραγούσης εἰς τὸν
πνεῦμα τὸ πνεῦμα, ποτὲ δ' ἔξω, καὶ τῶν κατὰ τὰς ῥίνας πόρων καὶ ὄλων τοῦ
στόματος ὡσαύτως οὐδ' εἶναι σοὶ δοκεῖ θαυμαστόν οὐδὲ παράδοξον, εἰ, δι' οὗ μικρῶ
πρόσθεν εἰσω παρεκομίζετο τὸ πνεῦμα, διὰ τούτου νῦν ἐκπέμπεται, περὶ δὲ τῶν ἐξ
ἥπατος εἰς ἔντερα τε καὶ γαστέρα καθηκουσῶν φλεβῶν ἀπορεῖς καὶ σοὶ θαυμαστόν
εἶναι φαίνεται, διὰ τῶν αὐτῶν ἀναδίδοσθαι θ' ἅμα τὴν τροφὴν εἰς ἥπαρ ἔλκεσθαι τ'
ἐξ ἐκείνου πάλιν εἰς γαστέρα; διόρισαι δὴ τὸ ἅμα τοῦτο ποτέρως λέγεις. εἰ μὲν γὰρ
κατὰ τὸν αὐτὸν χρόνον, οὐδ' ἡμεῖς τοῦτο γέ φαμεν. ὡς περ γὰρ εἰσπνέομεν ἐν ἐτέρῳ
χρόνῳ καὶ αὐθις πάλιν ἐν ἐτέρῳ ἀντεκπνέομεν, οὕτω καὶ τροφὴν ἐν ἐτέρῳ μὲν χρόνῳ
τὸ ἥπαρ ἐκ τῆς γαστρὸς, ἐν ἐτέρῳ δ' ἢ γαστήρ ἐκ τοῦ ἥπατος ἐπισπάται. εἰ δ' ὅτι καθ'
198 ἐν καὶ ταῦτο ζῶον ἐν ὄργανον ἐναντίας φοραῖς ὑλῶν ὑπηρετεῖ, τοῦτο σοὶ βούλεται
δηλοῦν τὸ ἅμα καὶ τοῦτο σε ταραττεῖ, τὴν τ' || εἰσπνοὴν ἰδὲ καὶ τὴν ἐκπνοὴν. πάντως
που καὶ αὐτὰι διὰ μὲν τῶν αὐτῶν ὀργάνων γίνονται, τρόπῳ δὲ κινήσεώς τε καὶ
φορᾶς τῶν ὑλῶν διαφέρουσιν.

Ὁ πνεύμων μὲν οὖν καὶ ὁ θώραξ καὶ ἀρτηρίαὶ αἱ τραχεῖαι καὶ αἱ λεῖαι καὶ καρδία καὶ
στόμα καὶ ῥίνας ἐν ἐλαχίσταις χρόνῳ ῥοπαῖς εἰς ἐναντίας κινήσεις αὐτὰ τε
μεταβάλλει καὶ τὰς ὑλὰς μεθίστησιν. αἱ δ' ἐξ ἥπατος εἰς ἔντερα καὶ γαστέρα
καθηκουσαι φλέβες οὐκ ἐν οὕτω βραχέσι χρόνῳ μορίοις ἀλλ' ἐν πολλαῖς ἡμέραις
ἅπαξ ἐνίοτε τὴν ἐναντίαν κινουῦνται κίνησιν.

Ἔχει γὰρ ὧδε τὸ σύμπαν. ἕκαστον τῶν ὀργάνων εἰς ἑαυτὸ τὴν πλησιάζουσαν
ἐπισπάται τροφὴν ἐκβοσκομένην αὐτῆς ἅπασαν τὴν χρηστὴν νοτίδα, μέχρις ἂν
ἰκανῶς κορεσθῇ, καὶ ταύτην, ὡς καὶ πρόσθεν ἐδείκνυμεν, ἐναποτίθεται ἑαυτῷ καὶ
μετὰ ταῦτα προσφύει τε καὶ ὁμοιοῖ, τουτέστι τρέφεται. διώρισται γὰρ ἰκανῶς
ἔμπροσθεν ἕτερον τι τῆς θρέψεως ἐξ ἀνάγκης αὐτῆς προηγούμενον ἢ πρόσφυσις
199 ὑπάρχειν, ἐκείνης δ' ἔτι πρότερον ἢ πρόσθεσις. ὡς περ οὖν || τοῖς ζῴοις αὐτοῖς ὅρος
ἐστὶ τῆς ἐδωδῆς τὸ πληρώσαι τὴν γαστέρα, κατὰ τὸν αὐτὸν τρόπον ἐκάστῳ τῶν
μορίων ὅρος ἐστὶ τῆς προσθέσεως ἢ πληρώσεως τῆς οἰκείας ὑγρότητος. ἐπεὶ τοίνυν
ἅπαν μόριον τῆ γαστρὶ ὁμοίως ὀρέγεται τρέφεσθαι, καὶ περιπτύσσεται τῆ τροφῇ καὶ
οὕτω σφίγγει πανταχόθεν αὐτὴν ὡς ἢ γαστήρ. ἔπεται δ' ἐξ ἀνάγκης τούτῳ, καθάπερ
καὶ πρόσθεν ἐρρήθη, τὸ πέττεσθαι τοῖς σιτίοις, τῆς γαστρὸς οὐ διὰ τοῦτο
περιστελλομένης αὐτοῖς, ἵν' ἐπιτήδεια τοῖς ἄλλοις ἐργάσῃται μορίοις· οὕτω γὰρ ἂν
οὐκέτι φυσικὸν ὄργανον ἀλλὰ ζῶον τι γίγνοιτο λογισμὸν τε καὶ νοῦν ἔχον, ὡς

200 Ἄλλ' αὐτὴ μὲν περιστέλλεται τῷ τὸ πᾶν σῶμα δύναμιν ἑλκτικὴν τινα καὶ ἀπολαυστικὴν κεκτήσθαι τῶν οἰκείων ποιότητων, ὡς ἔμπροσθεν ἐδείκνυτο· συμβαίνει δ' ἐν τούτῳ τοῖς σιτίοις ἀλλοιοῦσθαι. καὶ μέντοι καὶ πληρωθεῖσα τῆς ἐξ αὐτῶν ὑγρότητος καὶ κορεσθεῖσα βάρος ἠγεῖται τὸ λοιπὸν αὐτά. τὸ περιττὸν οὖν εὐθύς ἀποτρίβεται τε καὶ ὠθεῖ κάτω πρὸς ἢ ἕτερον ἔργον αὐτὴ τρεπομένη, τὴν πρόσφυσιν. ἐν δὲ τούτῳ τῷ χρόνῳ διερχομένη τὸ ἔντερον ἅπαν ἢ τροφή διὰ τῶν εἰς αὐτὸ καθιόντων ἀγγείων ἀναρπάσσεται, πλείστη μὲν εἰς τὰς φλέβας, ὀλίγη δὲ τις εἰς τὰς ἀρτηρίας, ὡς μικρὸν ὕστερον ἀποδείξομεν. ἐν τούτῳ δ' αὖ τῷ χρόνῳ καὶ τοῖς τῶν ἐντέρων χιτῶσι προστίθεται.

Καὶ μοι τεμῶν ἤδη τῷ λογισμῷ τὴν τῆς τροφῆς οἰκονομίαν ἅπασαν εἰς τρεῖς μοῖρας χρόνων, ἐν μὲν τῇ πρώτῃ νόει μένουσάν θ' ἅμα κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν αὐτὴν καὶ πεττομένην καὶ προστιθεμένην εἰς κόρον τῆ γαστρὶ καὶ τι καὶ τῷ ἥπατι παρ' αὐτῆς ἀναφερόμενον.

Ἐν δὲ τῇ δευτέρῃ, διερχομένην τὰ τ' ἔντερα καὶ προστιθεμένην εἰς κόρον αὐτοῖς τε τούτοις καὶ τῷ ἥπατι καὶ τι βραχὺ μέρος αὐτῆς πάντῃ τοῦ σώματος φερόμενον· ἐν δὲ δὴ τούτῳ τῷ καιρῷ τὸ προστεθὲν ἐν τῷ πρώτῳ χρόνῳ προσφύεσθαι νόει τῇ γαστρὶ.

201 Κατὰ δὲ τὴν τρίτην μοῖραν τοῦ χρόνου τρέφεσθαι μὲν ἤδη τὴν κοιλίαν ὁμοίωσασαν ἑαυτῇ τελέως τὰ προσφύοντα, πρόσφυσιν δὲ τοῖς ἐντέροις καὶ τῷ ἥπατι γίνεσθαι τῶν προστεθέντων, ἀνά||δοσιν δὲ πάντῃ τοῦ σώματος καὶ πρόσθεσιν. εἰ μὲν οὖν ἐπὶ τούτοις εὐθέως τὸ ζῶον λαμβάνοι τροφήν, ἐν ᾧ πάλιν ἢ γαστήρ χρόνῳ πέττει τε ταύτην καὶ ἀπολαύει προστιθεῖσα πᾶν ἐξ αὐτῆς τὸ χρηστὸν τοῖς ἑαυτῆς χιτῶσι, τὰ μὲν ἔντερα τελέως ὁμοίωσει τὸν προσφύοντα χυμὸν, ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ τὸ ἥπαρ. ἐν ὅλῳ δὲ τῷ σώματι πρόσφυσις τῶν προστεθέντων τῆς τροφῆς ἔσται μορίων. εἰ δ' ἄσιτος ἀναγκάζοιτο μένειν ἢ γαστήρ ἐν τούτῳ τῷ χρόνῳ, παρὰ τῶν ἐν μεσεντερίῳ τε καὶ ἥπατι φλεβῶν ἔλξει τὴν τροφήν· οὐ γὰρ ἐξ αὐτοῦ γε τοῦ σώματος τοῦ ἥπατος. λέγω δὲ σῶμα τοῦ ἥπατος αὐτὴν τε τὴν ἰδίαν αὐτοῦ σάρκα πρώτην καὶ μάλιστα, μετὰ δὲ τήνδε καὶ τῶν ἀγγείων ἕκαστον τῶν κατ' αὐτό. τὸν μὲν γὰρ ἐν ἐκάστῳ τῶν μορίων ἤδη περιεχόμενον χυμὸν οὐκέτ' εὐλόγον ἀντισπαῖν ἑτέρῳ μορίῳ καὶ μάλισθ' ὅταν ἤδη πρόσφυσις ἢ ἐξομοίωσις αὐτοῦ γίνηται. τὸν δ' ἐν ταῖς ἐνυχωρίαις τῶν φλεβῶν τὸ μᾶλλον ἰσχύον θ' ἅμα καὶ δεόμενον ἀντισπαῖ μόριον.

Pg 310
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

202 Οὕτως οὖν καὶ ἢ γαστήρ ἐν ἢ ᾧ χρόνῳ δεῖται μὲν αὐτὴ τροφῆς, ἐσθίει δ' οὐδέπω τὸ ζῶον, ἐν τούτῳ τῶν κατὰ τὸ ἥπαρ ἐξαρπάζει φλεβῶν. ἐπεὶ δὲ καὶ τὸν σπλήνα διὰ τῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἐδείκνυμεν ὅσον ἐν ἥπατι παχύτερον ἔλκοντα κατεργάζεσθαι τε καὶ μεταβάλλειν ἐπὶ τὸ χρηστότερον, οὐδὲν οὐδ' ἐνταῦθα θαυμαστὸν ἔλκεσθαι τι κάκ τοῦ σπληνὸς εἰς ἕκαστον τῶν κοινωνούντων αὐτῷ κατὰ τὰς φλέβας ὀργάνων, οἷον εἰς ἐπίπλοον καὶ μεσεντέριον καὶ λεπτὸν ἔντερον καὶ κῶλον καὶ αὐτὴν τὴν γαστέρα· κατὰ δὲ τὸν αὐτὸν τρόπον ἐξερεύεσθαι μὲν εἰς τὴν γαστέρα τὸ περιττώμα καθ' ἕτερον χρόνον, αὐτὸν δ' αὖθις ἐκ τῆς γαστρὸς ἔλκειν τι τῆς οἰκείας τροφῆς ἐν ἑτέρῳ καιρῷ.

Pg 312
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

203 Καθόλου δ' εἶπεῖν, ὃ καὶ πρόσθεν ἤδη λέλεκται, πᾶν ἐκ παντὸς ἔλκειν τε καὶ πέμπειν ἐγγωρεῖ κατὰ διαφέροντας χρόνους, ὁμοιοτάτου γιγνομένου τοῦ συμβαινόντος, ὡς εἰ καὶ ζῶα νοήσας πολλὰ τροφήν ἀφθονοῦν ἐν κοινῷ κατακειμένην, εἰς ὅσον βούλεται, προσφερόμενα. καθ' ὃν γὰρ ἤδη πέπαυται χρόνον ἕτερα, κατὰ τούτον εἰκὸς ἐσθίειν ἕτερα, καὶ μέλλειν γε τὰ μὲν ἢ παύεσθαι, τὰ δ' ἄρχεσθαι, καὶ τινα μὲν συνεσθίοντα, τὰ δ' ἀνὰ μέρος ἐσθίοντα καὶ ναὶ μὰ Δία γε τὸ ἕτερον ἀρπάζειν θατέρου πολλάκις, εἰ τὸ μὲν ἕτερον ἐπιδέοιτο, τῷ δ' ἀφθόνως παρακέοιτο. καὶ οὕτως οὐδὲν θαυμαστὸν οὐτ' ἐκ τῆς ἐσχάτης ἐπιφανείας εἴσω τι πάλιν ὑποστρέφειν οὔτε διὰ τῶν αὐτῶν ἀγγείων ἐξ ἥπατος τε καὶ σπληνὸς εἰς κοιλίαν ἀνενεχθῆναι τι, δι' ὧν ἐκ ταύτης εἰς ἐκεῖνα πρότερον ἀνηνέχθη.

204 Κατὰ μὲν γὰρ τὰς ἀρτηρίας ἰκανῶς ἐναργὲς τὸ τοιοῦτον, ὡσπερ καὶ κατὰ τὴν καρδίαν τε καὶ τὸν θώρακα καὶ τὸν πνεύμονα. τούτων γὰρ ἀπάντων διαστελλομένων τε καὶ συστελλομένων ἐναλλάξ ἀναγκαῖον, ἐξ ὧν εἰλκύσθη τι πρότερον, εἰς ταῦθ' ὕστερον ἐκπέμπεσθαι. καὶ ταύτην ἄρα τὴν ἀνάγκην ἢ φύσιν προγιγνώσκουσα τοῖς ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ στόμασι τῶν ἀγγείων ὑμένας ἐπέφυσε κωλύσοντας εἰς τοῦπίσω φέρεσθαι τὰς ὕλας. ἀλλ' ὅπως μὲν τοῦτο γίνεται καὶ καθ' ὄντινα τρόπον, ἐν τοῖς περὶ χρείας μορίων εἰρήσεται δεικνύοντων ἡμῶν τὰ τ' ἄλλα καὶ ὡς ἀδύνατον οὕτως ἀκριβῶς κλείεσθαι τὰ στόματα τῶν ἀγγείων, ὡς ἢ μηδὲν παλινδρομεῖν. εἰς μὲν γὰρ τὴν ἀρτηρίαν τὴν φλεβώδη, καὶ γὰρ καὶ τοῦτ' ἐν ἐκείνοις δειχθήσεται, πολὺ πλεον ἢ διὰ τῶν ἄλλων στομάτων εἰς τοῦπίσω πάλιν ἀναγκαῖον ἐπανέρχεσθαι. τὸ δ' εἰς τὰ παρόντα χρήσιμον, ὡς οὐκ ἐνδέχεται τι τῶν ἀίσθητῶν καὶ μεγάλῃν ἐχόντων εὐρύτητα μὴ οὐκ ἦτοι διαστελλόμενον ἔλκειν ἐξ ἀπάντων τῶν πλησίον ἢ ἐκθλίβειν αὖθις εἰς ταῦτα συστελλόμενον ἐκ τε τῶν ἤδη προειρημένων ἐν τῷδε τῷ λόγῳ σαφὲς ἂν εἴη κάξ ὧν Ἐρασίστρατός τε καὶ ἡμεῖς ἑτέρωθι περὶ τῆς πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίας ἐδείξαμεν.

Pg 314
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

XIV

Ἀλλὰ μὴν καὶ ὡς ἐν ἐκάστῃ τῶν ἀρτηριῶν ἐστὶ τις δύναμις ἐκ τῆς καρδίας ἐπιρρέουσα, καθ' ἣν διαστέλλονται τε καὶ συστέλλονται, δέδεικται δι' ἑτέρων.

Εἶπερ οὖν συνθείης ἄμφω τό τε ταύτην εἶναι τὴν κίνησιν αὐταῖς τὸ τε πᾶν τὸ διαστελλόμενον ἔλκειν ἐκ τῶν πλησίον εἰς ἑαυτό, θαυμαστὸν οὐδέν σοι φανεῖται τὰς ἀρτηρίας, ὅσαι μὲν εἰς τὸ δέρμα περαίνουσιν αὐτῶν, ἐπισπᾶσθαι τὸν ἔξωθεν ἀέρα διαστελλομένης, ὅσαι δὲ κατὰ τι πρὸς τὰς || φλέβας ἀνεστόμωνται, τὸ λεπτότατον ἐν αὐταῖς καὶ ἀτμωδέστατον ἐπισπᾶσθαι τοῦ αἵματος, ὅσαι δ' ἐγγὺς τῆς καρδίας εἰσὶν, ἐξ αὐτῆς ἐκείνης ποιεῖσθαι τὴν ὀλκῆν. ἐν γὰρ τῇ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίᾳ τὸ κουφότατον τε καὶ λεπτότατον ἔπεται πρῶτον τοῦ βαρυτέρου τε καὶ παχυτέρου· κουφότατον δ' ἐστὶ καὶ λεπτότατον ἀπάντων τῶν κατὰ τὸ σῶμα πρῶτον μὲν τὸ πνεῦμα, δεύτερον δ' ὁ ἀτμός, ἐπὶ τούτῳ δὲ τρίτον, ὅσον ἂν ἀκριβῶς ἦ κατειργασμένον τε καὶ λελεπτυσμένον αἷμα.

Pg 316
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Ταῦτ' οὖν εἰς ἑαυτὰς ἔλκουσιν αἱ ἀρτηρίαὶ πανταχόθεν, αἱ μὲν εἰς τὸ δέρμα καθήκουσαι τὸν ἔξωθεν ἀέρα· πλησίον τε γὰρ αὐταῖς οὗτός ἐστι καὶ κουφότατος ἐν τοῖς μάλιστα· τῶν δ' ἄλλων ἢ μὲν ἐπὶ τὸν τράχηλον ἐκ τῆς καρδίας ἀνιούσα καὶ ἢ κατὰ ῥάχιον, ἤδη δὲ καὶ ὅσαι τούτων ἐγγὺς ἐξ αὐτῆς μάλιστα τῆς καρδίας· ὅσαι δὲ καὶ τῆς καρδίας πορρωτέρω καὶ τοῦ δέρματος, ἔλκειν ταύταις ἀναγκαῖον ἐκ τῶν φλεβῶν τὸ κουφότατον τοῦ αἵματος· ὥστε καὶ τῶν εἰς τὴν γαστέρα τε καὶ τὰ ἔντερα καθηκουσῶν ἀρτηριῶν τὴν ὀλκῆν ἐν τῷ διαστελλεσθαι γίνεσθαι παρά τε τῆς || καρδίας αὐτῆς καὶ τῶν παρακειμένων αὐτῇ φλεβῶν παμπόλλων οὐσῶν. οὐ γὰρ δὴ ἔκ γε τῶν ἐντέρων καὶ τῆς κοιλίας τροφῆν οὕτω παχεῖαν τε καὶ βαρεῖαν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς ἐχόντων δύναται τι μεταλαμβάνειν, ὅ τι καὶ ἄξιον λόγου, φθάνουσαι πληροῦσθαι τοῖς κουφοτέροις. οὐδὲ γὰρ εἰ καθεὶς ἀυλίσκον εἰς ἀγγεῖον ὕδατος τε καὶ ψάμμου πλήρες ἐπισπᾶσαι τῷ στόματι τὸν ἐκ τοῦ ἀυλίσκου ἀέρα, δύναται ἂν ἀκολουθῆσαι σοι πρὸ τοῦ ὕδατος ἢ ψάμμου· αἰεὶ γὰρ ἐν τῇ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίᾳ τὸ κουφότερον ἔπεται πρότερον.

Pg 318
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

XV

Οὐκουν χρὴ θαυμάζειν, εἰ παντελῶς ὀλίγον ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας, ὅσον ἂν ἀκριβῶς ἦ κατειργασμένον, εἰς τὰς ἀρτηρίας παραγίγνεται φθανούσας πληροῦσθαι τῶν κουφοτέρων, ἀλλ' ἐκεῖνο γινώσκειν, ὡς δὴ ἐστὸν ὀλκῆς εἶδη, τὸ μὲν τῇ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίᾳ, τὸ δ' οἰκειότητι ποιότητος γινόμενον· ἐτέρως μὲν γὰρ εἰς τὰς φύσας ὁ ἀήρ, ἐτέρως δ' ὁ σίδηρος ὑπὸ τῆς ἡρακλείας ἐπισπᾶται λίθου· καὶ ὡς ἢ μὲν πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθίᾳ || τὸ κουφότερον ἔλκει πρότερον, ἢ δὲ κατὰ τὴν τῆς ποιότητος οἰκειότητα πολλάκις, εἰ οὕτως ἔτυχε, τὸ βαρύτερον, ἂν τῇ φύσει συγγενέστερον ὑπάρχη. καὶ τοίνυν καὶ ταῖς ἀρτηρίαις τε καὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ, ὡς μὲν κοίλοις τε καὶ διαστελλεσθαι δυναμένοις ὀργανοῖς, αἰεὶ τὸ κουφότερον ἀκολουθεῖ πρότερον, ὡς δὲ τρέφεσθαι δεομένοις, εἰς αὐτοὺς τοὺς χιτῶνας, οἱ δὴ τὰ σῶματα τῶν ὀργανῶν εἰσὶν, ἔλκεται τὸ οἰκεῖον. ὅσον ἂν οὖν εἰς τὴν κοιλότητα διαστελλομένων αὐτῶν αἵματος μεταληφθῆ, τούτου τὸ οἰκειότατον τε καὶ μάλιστα τρέφειν δυνάμενον οἱ χιτῶνες αὐτοῖ τῶν ἀγγείων ἐπισπῶνται.

Pg 320
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Τοῦ δ' ἐκ τῶν φλεβῶν εἰς τὰς ἀρτηρίας μεταλαμβάνεσθαι τι πρὸς τοῖς εἰρημένοις ἱκανὸν καὶ τοῦτο γε τεκμήριον. εἰ πολλὰς καὶ μεγάλας ἀρτηρίας διατεμῶν ἀποκτεῖναι τὸ ζῶον βουληθείης, εὐρήσεις αὐτοῦ τὰς φλέβας ὁμοίως ταῖς ἀρτηρίας ἐκκενουμένης, οὐκ ἂν τούτου ποτὲ γενομένου χωρὶς τῶν πρὸς ἀλλήλας αὐταῖς ἀναστομῶσεων. ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ κατ' αὐτὴν τὴν καρδίαν ἐκ τῆς δεξιᾶς κοιλίας εἰς τὴν ἀριστερὰν ἔλκεται τὸ λεπτό||τατον ἔχοντός τινα τρήματα τοῦ μέσου διαφράγματος αὐτῶν, ἃ μέχρι μὲν πλείστου δυνατόν ἐστιν ἰδεῖν, οἷον βοθύνους τινὰς ἐξ εὐρυτέρου στόματος αἰεὶ καὶ μᾶλλον εἰς στενότερον προϊόντας. οὐ μὴν αὐτὰ γε τὰ ἔσχατα πέρατα δυνατόν ἔτι θεάσασθαι διὰ τε σμικρότητα καὶ ὅτι τεθνεῶτος ἤδη τοῦ ζῶου κατέψυκταί τε καὶ πεπύκνωται πάντα. ἀλλ' ὁ λόγος κἀνταῦθα πρῶτον μὲν ἐκ τοῦ μηδὲν ὑπὸ τῆς φύσεως γίνεσθαι μάτην ὀρμώμενος ἐξευρίσκει τὰς ἀναστομῶσεις ταύτας τῶν κοιλίων τῆς καρδίας· οὐ γὰρ δὴ εἰκὴ γε καὶ ὡς ἔτυχεν οἱ ἐς στενὸν οὕτω τελευτῶντες ἐγένοντο βόθυνοι.

Δεύτερον δὲ κάκ τοῦ δυοῖν ὄντων στομάτιον ἐν τῇ δεξιᾷ τῆς καρδίας κοιλία τοῦ μὲν εἰσάγοντος τὸ αἷμα, τοῦ δ' ἐξάγοντος πολὺ μείζον εἶναι τὸ εἰσάγον. ὡς γὰρ οὐ παντὸς τοῦ αἵματος, ὅσον ἢ κοίλη φλεψὶ δίδωσι τῇ καρδίᾳ, πάλιν ἐξ ἐκείνης ἐκπεμπομένου τῷ πνεύμονι, μείζων ἐστὶν ἢ ἀπὸ τῆς κοίλης εἰς αὐτὴν ἔμφυσις τῆς ἐμφομένης εἰς τὸν πνεύμονα φλεβός. οὐδὲ || γὰρ τοῦτ' ἐστὶν εἰπεῖν, ὡς ἐδαπανήθη τι τοῦ αἵματος εἰς τὴν αὐτοῦ τοῦ σώματος τῆς καρδίας θρέψιν. ἐτέρα γὰρ ἐστὶ φλεψὶ ἢ εἰς ἐκεῖνο κατασχιζομένη μήτε τὴν γένεσιν ἐκ τῆς καρδίας αὐτῆς μήτε τὴν τοῦ αἵματος ἔχουσα μετάληψιν. εἰ δὲ καὶ δαπανᾶται τι, ἀλλ' οὐ τοσοῦτον γε μείων ἐστὶν ἢ εἰς τὸν πνεύμονα φλεψὶ ἄγουσα τῆς εἰς τὴν καρδίαν ἐμφομένης, ὅσον εἰκὸς εἰς τὴν τροφῆν ἀνηλωσθαι τῆς καρδίας, ἀλλὰ πλέον πολλῶ. δῆλον οὖν, ὡς εἰς τὴν ἀριστερὰν τι μεταλαμβάνεται κοιλίαν.

Pg 322
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Καὶ γὰρ οὖν καὶ τῶν κατ' ἐκείνην ἀγγείων δυοῖν ὄντων ἔλαττόν ἐστι πολλῶ τὸ ἐκ τοῦ πνεύμονος εἰς αὐτὴν εἰσάγον τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς ἐκφομένης ἀρτηρίας τῆς μεγάλης, ἀφ' ἧς αἱ κατὰ τὸ σῶμα σύμπασαι πεφύκασιν, ὡς ἂν μὴ μόνον ἐκ τοῦ πνεύμονος πνεῦμα μεταλαμβανούσης αὐτῆς, ἀλλὰ κάκ τῆς δεξιᾶς κοιλίας αἷμα διὰ τῶν εἰρημένων ἀναστομῶσεων.

Ἵτι δ' ἄμεινον ἦν τοῖς τοῦ σώματος μορίοις τοῖς μὲν ὑπὸ καθαροῦ καὶ λεπτοῦ καὶ ἀτμώδους αἵματος τρέφεσθαι, τοῖς δ' ὑπὸ παχέος καὶ θολεροῦ καὶ ὡς οὐδ' ἐνταῦθα τι

210 παρέρωραται τῆ φύσει, τῆς ἢ περὶ χρείας μορίων πραγματείας ἐστίν, ὥστ' οὐ χρή νῦν ὑπὲρ τούτων ἔτι λέγειν, ἀλλ' ὑπομνήσαντας, ὡς δύο ἐστὸν ὀλκῆς εἶδη, τῶν μὲν εὐρείαις ὁδοῖς ἐν τῷ διαστελλεσθαι τῆ πρὸς τὸ κενούμενον ἀκολουθία τὴν ἔλξιν ποιουμένων, τῶν δ' οἰκειότητι ποιότητος, ἐφεξῆς λέγειν, ὡς τὰ μὲν πρότερα καὶ πόρρωθεν ἔλκειν τι δύναται, τὰ δὲ δεύτερα ἐκ τῶν ἐγγυτάτω μόνων. ἀυλίσκον μὲν γὰρ ὅτι μήκιστον εἰς ὕδωρ ἔνεστι καθέντα ῥαδίως ἀνασπᾶν εἰς τὸ στόμα δι' αὐτοῦ τὸ ὑγρόν· οὐ μὴν εἴ γ' ἐπὶ πλέον ἀπαγάγοις τῆς ἡρακλείας λίθου τὸν σίδηρον ἢ τοὺς πυροὺς τοῦ κεραμίου—καὶ γὰρ καὶ τοιοῦτόν τι πρόσθεν ἐλέγετο παράδειγμα—δύναιτ' ἂν ἔτι γενέσθαι τις ὀλκή.

Pg 324
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

211 Σαφέστατα δ' ἂν αὐτὸ μάθοις ἐπὶ τῶν ἐν τοῖς κήποις ὀχετῶν· ἐκ τούτων γὰρ εἰς μὲν τὰ παρακείμενα καὶ πλησίον ἅπαντα διαδίδοται τις ἰκμάς, εἰς δὲ τὰ πορρωτέρω προσελθεῖν οὐκέτι δύναται, καὶ διὰ τοῦτ' ἀναγκάζονται πολλοῖς ὀχετοῖς μικροῖς ἀπὸ τοῦ μεγάλου τετμημένοις εἰς ἕκαστον μέρος τοῦ κήπου τὴν ἐπίρρυσιν τοῦ ὕδατος ἐπιτεχνάσθαι· καὶ τηλικαῦτά γε τὰ ἢ μεταξύ διαστήματα τούτων τῶν μικρῶν ὀχετῶν ποιούσιν, ἠλίκα μάλιστα νομίζουσιν ἀρκεῖν εἰς τὸ ἰκανῶς ἀπολαύειν ἔλκοντα τῆς ἐκατέρωθεν αὐτοῖς ἐπιρρεούσης ὑγρότητος. οὕτως οὖν ἔχει κὰν τοῖς τῶν ζῶων σώμασιν. ὀχετοὶ πολλοὶ κατὰ πάντα τὰ μέλη διεσπαρμένοι παράγουσιν αὐτοῖς αἶμα καθάπερ ἐν κήποις ὑδρεῖαν τινά. καὶ τούτων τῶν ὀχετῶν τὰ μεταξύ διαστήματα θαυμαστῶς ὑπὸ τῆς φύσεως εὐθὺς ἐξ ἀρχῆς διατέτακται πρὸς τὸ μήτ' ἐνδεῶς χορηγεῖσθαι τοῖς μεταξύ μορίοις ἔλκουσιν εἰς ἑαυτὰ τὸ αἶμα μήτε κατακλύζεσθαι ποτ' αὐτὰ πλήθει περιττῆς ὑγρότητος ἀκαίρως ἐπιρρεούσης.

Pg 326
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

212 Ὅ γὰρ δὴ τρόπος τῆς θρέψεως αὐτῶν τοιόσδε τις ἐστὶ. τοῦ συνεχοῦς ἑαυτῷ σώματος, οἷον περὶ τὸ ἀπλοῦν ἀγγεῖον Ἐρασίστρατος ὑποτίθεται, τὰ μὲν ἐπιπολῆς μέρη πρῶτα τῆς ὀμιλούσης ἀπολαύει τροφῆς· ἐκ δὲ τούτων αὐτὰ μεταλαμβάνει κατὰ τὸ συνεχές ἔλκοντα τὰ τούτων ἐξῆς, εἴτ' ἐξ ἐκείνων αὐθις ἐτέρα καὶ τοῦτ' οὐ παύεται γιγνόμενον, ἄχρις ἂν εἰς ἅπαντ' αὐτοῦ διαδοθῆ τὰ μόρια τῆς τρεφούσης οὐσίας ἢ ποιότητος. ὅσα δὲ τῶν μορίων ἐπὶ πλέον ἢ ἀλλοιουμένου δεῖται τοῦ μέλλοντος αὐτὰ θρέψιν χυμοῦ, τούτοις ὡσπερ τι ταμειῖον ἢ φύσις παρεσκεύασεν ἤτοι κοιλίας ἢ σήραγγας ἢ τι ταῖς σήραγγιν ἀνάλογον. αἱ μὲν γὰρ σάρκες αἱ τε τῶν σπλάγχνων ἀπάντων αἱ τε τῶν μυῶν ἐξ αἵματος αὐτοῦ τρέφονται βραχείαν ἀλλοίωσιν δεξαμένου. τὰ δ' ὅσα παμπόλλης ἐν τῷ μεταξύ δεῖται τῆς μεταβολῆς, ἵνα τραφῆ, καὶ ἔστιν οἷον περὶ τὸ αἶμα ταῖς σαρκί, τοιοῦτος ὁ μυελὸς τοῖς ὀστοῖς ἐν μὲν τοῖς μικροῖς τε καὶ ἀκοιλίαις κατὰ τὰς σήραγγας αὐτῶν διεσπαρμένος, ἐν δὲ τοῖς μείζοσι τε καὶ κοιλίας ἔχουσιν ἐν ἐκείναις ἠθροισμένως.

213 Ὡς γὰρ καὶ διὰ τοῦ πρώτου γράμματος ἐδείκνυτο, τοῖς μὲν ὁμοίαν ἔχουσι τὴν οὐσίαν εἰς ἀλλήλα μεταβάλλειν ἐγχωρεῖ, τοῖς δὲ πάμπολυ διεστώσιν ἀμήχανον ἀλλήλοις ὁμοιωθῆναι χωρὶς τῶν ἐν μέσῳ μεταβολῶν. τοιοῦτόν τι καὶ τοῖς χόνδροις ἐστὶ τὸ περικεχυμένον μυζῶδες καὶ τοῖς συνδέσμοις καὶ τοῖς ὑμέσι καὶ τοῖς νεύροις τὸ παρεσπαρμένον ἐν αὐτοῖς ὑγρὸν γλίσχρον· ἕκαστον γὰρ ἢ τούτων ἐξ ἰνῶν σύγκειται πολλῶν, αἵπερ ὁμοιομερεῖς τ' εἰσὶ καὶ ὄντως αἰσθητὰ στοιχεῖα. κατὰ δὲ τὰς μεταξύ χώρας αὐτῶν ὁ οἰκειότατος εἰς θρέψιν παρέσπαρται χυμὸς, ὃν εἴλκυσαν μὲν ἐκ τῶν φλεβῶν τοῦ αἵματος, ὅσον οἷον τ' ἦν ἐκλεξάμεναι τὸν ἐπιτηδεϊότατον, ἐξομοιοῦσι δὲ κατὰ βραχὺ καὶ μεταβάλλουσιν εἰς τὴν ἑαυτῶν οὐσίαν.

Pg 328
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

214 Ἄπαντ' οὖν ταῦτα καὶ ἀλλήλοις ὁμολογεῖ καὶ τοῖς ἔμπροσθεν ἀποδεδειγμένοις ἰκανῶς μαρτυρεῖ καὶ οὐ χρή μηκύνειν ἔτι τὸν λόγον· ἐκ γὰρ τῶν εἰρημένων ἔνεστιν ἐκάστῳ τὰ κατὰ μέρος ἅπαντα καθ' ὄντινα γίνεταί τινος ἐξευρίσκειν ἐτοίμως, ὡσπερ καὶ διὰ τι πολλοῖς κωθωνιζομένοις πάμπολυ τάχιστα μὲν ἀναδίδοται τὸ ποθέν, οὐρεῖται δ' ὀλίγου δεῖν ἅπαν ἐντὸς οὐ πολλοῦ χρόνου. καὶ γὰρ κὰνταῦθα τῆ τε τῆς ποιότητος οἰκειότητι καὶ τῆ τῆς ὑγρότητος λεπτότητι καὶ τῆ τῶν ἀγγείων τε καὶ τῶν κατ' αὐτὰ στομάτων ἐνυρῶν καὶ τῆ τῆς ἐλκτικῆς δυνάμεως εὐρωστία τὸ τάχος συντελεῖται τῆς ἀναδόσεως, τῶν μὲν πλησίον τῆς κοιλίας τεταγμένων μορίων οἰκειότητι ποιότητος ἢ ἑαυτῶν ἔνεκα ἐλκόντων τὸ πόμα, τῶν δ' ἐξῆς τούτοις ἐξαρπαζόντων καὶ αὐτῶν εἰς ἑαυτὰ κάπειτα τῶν ἐφεξῆς πάλιν ἐκ τούτων μεταλαμβάνοντων, ἄχρις ἂν εἰς τὴν κοίλην ἀφίκηται φλέβα, τούτων δὲ ἤδη τῶν νεφρῶν τὸ οἰκεῖον ἐπισπῶμένων. ὥστ' οὐδὲν θαυμαστόν οἶνον μὲν ὕδατος ἀναλαμβάνεσθαι θᾶπτον οἰκειότητι ποιότητος, αὐτὸν δὲ τὸν οἶνον τὸν μὲν λευκὸν καὶ καθαρὸν ἐτοίμως ἀναδίδεσθαι διὰ λεπτότητα, τὸν δ' αὖ μέλανα καὶ θολερὸν ἴσχεσθαι τε κατὰ τὴν ὁδὸν καὶ βραδύνειν ὑπὸ πάχους.

Pg 330
[Translation](#)
[Transliteration](#)

Εἴη δ' ἂν ταῦτα καὶ τῶν ὑπὲρ τῶν ἀρτηριῶν ἔμπροσθεν εἰρημένων οὐ σμικρὰ μαρτύρια. πανταχοῦ γὰρ ὅσον οἰκεῖόν τε καὶ λεπτόν αἶμα τοῦ μὴ τοιοῦτου ῥᾶον ἔπεται τοῖς ἔλκουσιν. ἀτμὸν οὖν ἔλκουσαι καὶ πνεῦμα καὶ λεπτόν αἶμα κατὰ τὰς διαστάσεις αἱ ἀρτηρίαί τῶν κατὰ τὴν κοιλίαν καὶ τὰ ἔντερα περιεχομένων χυμῶν ἢ οὐδ' ὄλως ἢ παντάπασιν ἐπισπῶνται βραχὺ.

PERI PHYSIKÔN DYNAMÊON

A

I

Κ II. Epeidê to men aisthanesthai te kai kineisthai kata proairesin idia tôn zôon esti, to d'
 P. 1 auxanesthai te kai trephesthai koina kai tois phytois, eiê an ta men protera tês
 psychês, ta de deuthera tês physeôs erga. ei de tis kai tois phytois psychês metadidôsi
 kai diaroumenos autas onomazei phytikên men tautên, aisthêtikên de tèn heteran,
 2 legei men oud' houtos alla, tê lexei d' ou pany tê synêthei kechrêtai. all' hêmeis ge
 megistên lexeôs aretên saphêneian einai pepeismenoi kai tautên eidotes || hyp'
 oudenos houtôs hôs hypo tôn asynêthôn onomatôn diaphtheiromenên, hôs tois pollois
 ethos, houtôs onomazontes hypo men psychês th' hama kai physeôs ta zôa
 dioikeisthai phamen, hypo de physeôs monês ta phyta kai to g' auxanesthai te kai
 trephesthai physeôs erga phamen, ou psychês.

II

Pg 4
[Greek text](#)

Kai zêtêsomen kata tonde ton logon, hypo tinôn gignetai dynamêon auta dê tauta kai
 ei dê ti allo physeôs ergon estin.

Alla proteron ge dielesthai te chrê kai mênysai saphôs hekaston tôn onomatôn, hois
 chrêsometha kata tonde ton logon, kai eph' ho ti pheromen pragma. genêsetai de
 tout' euthys ergôn physikôn didaskalia syn tais tôn onomatôn exêgêsesin.

Hotan oun ti sôma kata mêden exallattêtai tôn proÿparchontôn, hêsychazein auto
 phamen; ei d' existaito pê, kat' ekeino kineisthai. kai toinyn epei polyeidôs existatai,
 polyeidôs kai kinêthêsetai. kai gar ei leukon hyparchon melainoito kai ei melan
 3 leukainoito, kineitai kata chroan, kai ei glyky teôs hyparchon authis || austêron ê
 empalin ex austêrou glyky genoito, kai tout' an kineisthai legoito kata ton chymon.
 amphô de tauta te kai ta proeirêmena kata tèn poiôtêta kineisthai lechthêsetai kai ou
 monon ge ta kata tèn chroan ê ton chymon exallattomena kineisthai phamen, alla kai
 to thermoterou ek psychroterou genomenon ê psychroterou ek thermoterou
 kineisthai kai touto legomen, hôsper ge kai ei ti xêron ex hygrou ê hygron ek xêrou
 gignoito. koinon de kata toutôn hapantôn onoma pheromen tèn alloiôsin.

Pg 6
[Greek text](#)

Hen ti touto genos kinêseôs. heteron de genos epi tois tas chôras ameibousi sômasi
 kai topon ek topou metallattein legomenois, onoma de kai toutô phora.

Hautai men oun hai dyo kinêseis haplai kai prôtai, synthetoi d' ex autôn auxêsis te kai
 phthisis, hotan ex elattonos ti meizon ê ek meizonos elatton genêtai phylatton to
 oikeion eidos. heterai de dyo kinêseis genesis kai phthora, genesis men hê eis ousian
 agôgê, phthora d' hê enantia.

4 Pasais de tais kinêsesi koinon exallaxis tou || proÿparchontos, hôsper oun kai tais
 hêsychiais hê phylakê tôn proÿparchontôn. all' hoti men exallattetai kai pros tèn
 opsin kai pros tèn geusin kai pros tèn haphên haima gignomena ta sitia,
 synchôrousin; hoti de kai kat' alêtheian, ouketi touth' homologousin hoi sophistai. hoi
 men gar tines autôn hapanta ta toiauta tôn hêmeterôn aisthêseôn apatas tinas kai
 paragôgas nomizousin allot' allôs paschousôn, tês hypokeimenês ousias mêden
 toutôn, hois eponomazetai, dechomenês; hoi de tines einai men en autê boulontai tas
 poiôtêtas, ametablêtous de kai atreptous ex aiônos eis aiôna kai tas phainomenas
 tautas alloiôseis tê diakrisei te kai synkrisei gignesthai phasin hôs Anaxagoras.

Pg 8
[Greek text](#)

5 Ei dê toutous ektrapomenos exelenchoimi, meizon an moi to parergon tou ergou
 genoito. ei men gar ouk isasin, hosa peri tês kath' holên tèn ousian alloiôseôs
 Aristotelei te kai met' auton Chrysippô gegraptai, parakalesai chrê tois ekeinôn
 autous homilêsai grammasin; ei de gignôskontes epeith' hekontes ta cheirô pro tôn
 beltionôn || hairountai, mataia dêpou kai ta hêmetera nomiousin. hoti de kai
 Hippokratês houtôs egnôskên Aristotelous eti proteros ôn, en heterois hêmin
 apodedeiktai. prôtos gar houtos hapantôn hôn ismen iatrôn te kai philosophôn
 apodeiknyein epecheirêse tettaras einai tas pasas drastikas eis allêlas poiôtêtas,
 hyp' hôn gignetai te kai phtheiretai panth', hosa genesin te kai phthoran
 epidechetai. kai mentoi kai to kerannysthai di' allêlôn autas holas di' holôn
 Hippokratês hapantôn prôtos egnô; kai tas archas ge tôn apodeixeôn, hôn hysteron
 Aristotelês metechairisato, par' ekeinô prôtô gegrammenas estin heurein.

6 Ei d' hôsper tas poiôtêtas houtô kai tas ousias di' holôn kerannysthai chrê nomizein,
 hôs hysteron apephênato Zênôn ho Kittieus, ouch hêgoumai dein eti peri toutou kata
 tonde ton logon epexienai. monên gar eis ta paronta deomai gignôskesthai tèn di'
 holês tês ousias alloiôsin, hina mê tis ostou kai sarkos kai neurou kai tôn allôn
 hekastou moriôn hoionei misgankeian tina tô artô nomisê periechesthai kapeit' en ||

Pg 10
[Greek text](#)

tô sômati diakrinomenon hôs to homophylon hekaston ienai. kaitoi pro ge tês diakriseôs haima phainetai gignomenos ho pas artos. ei goun pampollô tis chronô mêden all' eiê sition prospheomenos, ouden hêtton en tais phlepsin haima periechomenon hexei. kai phanerôs touto tèn tôn ametablêta ta stoicheia tithemenôn exelenchei doxan, hôsper oimai kai toulaiou eis tèn tou lychnou phloga katanaliskomenon hapan kai ta xyla pyr mikron hysteron gignomena.

Kaitoi to g' antilegein autois êrnêsamên, all' epei tês iatrikês hylês ên to paradeigma kai chrêzô pros ton paronta logon autou, dia tout' emnêmoneusa. katalipontes oun, hôs ephên, tèn pros toutous antilogian, <enon> tois boulomenois ta tôn palaiôn ekmanthanein kax hôn hêmeis idia peri autôn epeskemmetha.

7 Ton ephexês logon hapanta poiêsometha zêtountes hyper hôn ex archês prouthemetha, posai te kai tines eisin hai tês physeôs dynameis kai ti poiein ergon hekastê pephyken. ergon de dêlonoti kalô to gegonos êdê kai sympeplê||rômenon hypo tês energieas autôn, hoion to haima, tèn sarka, to neuron; energiean de tèn drastikên onomazô kinêsin kai tèn tautês aitian dynamin. epei gar en tô to sition haima gignesthai pathêtikê men hê tou sitiou, drastikê d' hê tês phlebos gignetai kinêsis, hôsautôs de kan tô metapherein ta kôla kinei men ho mys, kineitai de ta osta, tèn men tês phlebos kai tôn myôn kinêsin energiean einai phêmi, tèn de tôn sition te kai tôn ostôn symptôma te kai pathêma; ta men gar alloioutai, ta de pheretai. tèn men oun energiean enchôrei kalein kai ergon tês physeôs, hoion tèn pepsin, tèn anadosin, tèn haimatôsin, ou mên to g' ergon ex hapantos energiean; hê gar toi sarx ergon men esti tês physeôs, ou mên energiea ge. dêlon oun, hôs thateron men tôn onomatôn dichôs legetai, thateron d' ou.

Pg 12
[Greek text](#)

III

8 Emoi men oun kai hê phleps kai tôn allôn hapantôn hekaston dia tèn ek tôn tettarôn poian krasin hôdi pôs energiein dokei. eisi de ge mên ouk oligoi tines andres || oud' adoxoi, philosophoi te kai iatroi, tô men thermô kai tô psychrô to dran anapherontes, hypoballontes d' autois pathêtika to xêron te kai to hygron. kai prôtos g' Aristotelês tas tôn kata meros hapantôn aitias eis tautas anagein peiratai tas archas, êkolouthêse d' hysteron autô kai ho apo tês stoas choros. kaitoi toutois men, hôs an kai autôn tôn stoicheiôn tèn eis allêla metabolên chyesi te tisi kai pilêsesin anapherousin, eulogon ên archas drastikas poiêsasthai to thermon kai to psychron, Aristotelei d' ouch houtôs, alla tais tettarsi poiôtês sin eis tèn tôn stoicheiôn genesin chrômenô beltion ên kai tas tôn kata meros aitias hapasas eis tautas anagein. ti dêpot' oun en men tois peri geneseôs kai phthoras tais tettarsi chrêtai, en de tois meteôrologikois kai tois problêmasi kai allothi pollachothi tais dyo monais? ei men gar hôs en tois zôois te kai tois phytois mallon men dra to thermon kai to psychron, hêtton de to xêron kai to hygron apophainoito tis, isôs an echoi kai ton Hippokratên sympsêphon; ei d' hôsautôs en || hapasin, ouket' oimai synchôrêsein touto mê hoti ton Hippokratên alla mêd' auton ton Aristotelên memnêsthai ge boulomenon hôn en tois peri geneseôs kai phthoras ouch haplôs alla met' apodeixeôs autos hêmas edidaxen. alla peri men toutôn kan tois peri kraseôn, eis hoson iatrô chrêsimon, epeskepsametha.

Pg 14
[Greek text](#)

IV

10 Hê d' oun dynamis hê en tais phlepsin hê haimatopoiêtikê prosagoreuomenê kai pasa d' allê dynamis en tô pros ti nenoêtai; prôtôs men gar tês energieas aitia, êdê de kai tou ergou kata symbebêkos. all' eiper hê aitia pros ti, tou gar hyp' autês genomenou monou, tôn d' allôn oudenos, eudêlon, hoti kai hê dynamis en tô pros ti. kai mechri g' an agnoômen tèn ousian tês energousês aitias, dynamin autên onomazomen, einai tina legontes en tais phlepsin haimatopoiêtikên, hôsautôs de kan tê koilia peptikên kan tê kardia sphygmikên kai kath' hekaston tôn allôn idian tina tês || kata to morion energieas. eiper oun methodô melloimen exeurêsein, hoposai te kai hopoiai tines hai dynameis eisin, apo tôn ergôn autôn arkteon; hekaston gar autôn hypo tinos energieas gignetai kai toutôn hekastês proêgeitai tis aitia.

Pg 16
[Greek text](#)

V

Erga toinyn tês physeôs eti men kyomenou te kai diaplattomenou tou zôou ta sympant' esti tou sômatos moria, gennêthentos de koinon eph' hapasin ergon hê eis to teleion hekastô megethos agôgê kai meta tauth' hê mechri tou dynatou diamonê.

Energieai d' epi trisi tois eirêmenois ergois treis ex anankês, eph' hekastô mia, genesis te kai auxêsis kai threpsis. all' hê men genesis ouch haplê tis energiea tês physeôs, all' ex alloiôseôs te kai diaplasteôs esti synthetos. hina men gar ostoun genêtai kai neuron kai phleps kai tôn allôn hekaston, alloiousthai chrê tèn hypobebblêmenên ousian, ex hês gignetai to zôn; hina de kai schêma to deon kai thesin kai koilotêtas tinas kai apophyseis kai symphyseis kai talla || ta toiauta ktêsêtai, diaplattesthai chrê tèn alloioumenên ousian, hên dê kai hylên tou zôou

Pg 18
[Greek text](#)

kalôn, hôs tês neôs ta xyla kai tês eikonos ton kêron, ouk an hamartois.

Hê d' auxêsis epidosis esti kai diastasis kata mêkos kai platos kai bathos tôn stereôn tou zôou moriôn, hônper kai hê diaplasis ên, hê de threpsis prosthesis tois autois aneu diastaseôs.

VI

Peri prôtês oun tês geneseôs eipômen, hên ex alloiôseôs th' hama kai diaplaseôs elegomen gignesthai.

12 Katablêthentos dê tou spermatos eis tèn mêtran ê eis tèn gên, ouden gar diapherei, chronois tisin hôrismenois pampolla synistatai moria tês gennômenês ousias hygrotêti kai xêrotêti kai psychrotêti kai thermotêti kai tois allois hapasin, hosa toutois hepetai, diapheronta. ta d' hepomena gignôskeis, eiper holôs ephilosophêsas ti peri geneseôs kai phthoras; hai loipai gar tôn haptôn onomazomenôn diaphorôn tais eirêmenais hepontai prôtai kai malista, meta de tau||tas hai geustai te kai osphrêtai kai horatai. sklêrotês men oun kai malakotês kai glischrotês kai kraurotês kai kouphotês kai barytês kai pyknotês kai araiotês kai leiotês kai trachytês kai pachytês kai leptotês haptai diaphorai kai eirêtai peri pasôn Aristotelei kalôs. oistha de dêpou kai tas geustas te kai osphrêtas kai horatas diaphoras. hôst', ei men tas prôtas te kai stoicheiôdeis alloiôtikas dynameis zêtoiês, hygrotês esti kai xêrotês kai psychrotês kai thermotês; ei de tas ek tês toutôn kraseôs genomenas, tosautai kath' hekaston esontai zôon, hosaper an autou ta aisthêta stoicheia hyparchê; kaleitai d' aisthêta stoicheia ta homoiomerê panta tou sômatos moria; kai taut' ouk ek methodou tinos all' autoptên genomenon ekmathein chrê dia tôn anatomôn.

Pg 20
[Greek text](#)

13 Ostoun dê kai chondron kai neuron kai hymena kai syndesmon kai phleba kai panth' hosa toiauta kata tèn prôtên tou zôou genesisin hê physis apergazetai dynamei chrômenê katholou men eipein tê gennêtikê te kai alloiô||tikê, kata meros de thermantikê te kai psyktikê kai xêrantikê kai hygrantikê kai tais ek tês toutôn kraseôs genomenais, hoion ostopoiêtikê te kai neuropoiêtikê kai chondropoiêtikê; saphêneias gar heneka kai toutois tois onomasi chrêsteon.

Pg 22
[Greek text](#)

14 Esti goun kai hê idia sarx tou hêpatos ek toutou tou genous kai hê tou splênos kai hê tôn nephôn kai hê tou pneumonos kai hê tês kardias houtô de kai tou enkephalou to idion sôma kai tês gastros kai tou stomachou kai tôn enterôn kai tôn hysterôn aisthêton stoicheion estin homoiomeres te kai haploun kai asyntheton; ean gar exelês hekastou tôn eirêmenôn tas artêrias te kai tas phlebas kai ta neura, to hypoloipon sôma to kath' hekaston organon haploun esti kai stoicheiôdes hôs pros aisthêsîn. hosa de tôn toioutôn organôn ek dyoin synkeitai chitônôn ouch homoiôn men allêlois, haplou d' hekaterou, toutôn hoi chitônes eisi ta stoicheia kathaper tês te gastros kai tou stomachou kai tôn enterôn kai tôn artêriôn, kai kath' hekateron ge tôn chitônôn idios hê alloiôtikê dynamis hê ek tou para tês || mêtros epimênïou gennêsasa to morion, hôste tas kata meros alloiôtikas dynameis tosautas einai kath' hekaston zôon, hosaper an echê ta stoicheiôdê moria. kai men ge kai tas energieas idias hekastô tôn kata meros anankaion hyparchein hôsper kai tas chreias, hoion kai tôn apo tôn nephôn eis tèn kystin diêkontôn porôn, hoi dê kai ourêtêres kalountai. houtoi gar out' artêriai eisin, hoti mête sphyzousi mêt' ek dyoin chitônôn synestêkasîn, oute phlebes, hoti mêth' haima periechousi mêt' eoiken autôn ho chitôn kata ti tô tês phlebos; alla kai neurôn epi pleon aphestêkasîn ê tôn eirêmenôn.

Pg 24
[Greek text](#)

15 Ti pot' oun eisin? erôta tis, hôsper anankaion on hapan morion ê artêrian ê phleba ê neuron hyparchein ê ek toutôn peplechthai kai mê tout' auto to nyn legomenon, hôs idios hekastô tôn kata meros organôn estin hê ousia. kai gar kai hai kysteis hekaterai hê te to ouron hypodechomenê kai hê tèn xanthên cholên ou monon tôn allôn hapantôn alla kai allêlôn diapherousi kai hoi eis to hêpar apophyomenoi || poroi, kathaper stomachoi tines apo tês cholêdochou kysteôs, ouden out' artêriais oute phlepsin oute neurois eoikasîn. alla peri men toutôn epi pleon en allois te tisi kan tois peri tês Hippokratous anatomês eirêtai.

Hai de kata meros hapasai dynameis tês physeôs hai alloiôtikai autên men tèn ousian tôn chitônôn tês koilias kai tôn enterôn kai tôn hysterôn apetelesan, hoiaper esti; tèn de synthesin autôn kai tèn tôn emphyomenôn plokên kai tèn eis to enteron ekphysin kai tèn tês endon koilotêtos idean kai tall' hosa toiauta dynamis tis hetera dieplasan, hên diaplastikên onomazomen, hên dê kai technikên einai legomen, mallon d' aristên kai akran technên kai panta tinos heneka poiouasan, hôs mêden argon einai mêde peritton mêd' holôs houtôs echon, hôs dynasthai beltion heterôs echein. alla touto men en tois peri chreias moriôn apodeixomen. ||

Pg 26
[Greek text](#)

VII

16 Epi de tèn auxêtikên êdê metabantes dynamin auto touth' hypomnêsômen prôtôn, hôs hyparchei men kai autê tois kyoumenois hôsper kai hê threptikê; all' hoion hypêretides tines eisi tênikauta tôn proeirêmenôn dynamôn, ouk en hautais echousai to pan kyros. epeidan de to teleion apolabê megethos to zôon, en tô meta

tên apokyêsîn chronô panti mechri tês akmês hê men auxêtikê tênikauta kratei; boêthoi d' autês kai hoion hypêretides hê t' alloiôtikê dynamis esti kai hê threptikê. ti oun to idion esti tês auxêtikês dynamêôs? eis pan meros ekteinaï ta pephykota. kaleitai d' houtô ta stereâ moria tou sômatos, artêriai kai phlebes kai neura kai osta kai chondroi kai hymenes kai syndesmoi kai hoi chitônes hapantes, hous stoicheiôdeis te kai homoiomereis kai haplous oligon emprosthen ekaloumen. hotô de tropô tên eis pan meros ektasin ischousin, egô phrasô paradeigma ti proteron eipôn heneka tou saphous. ||

- 17 Tas kysteis tôn hyôn labontes hoi paides plêrousi te pneumatos kai tribousin epi tês tephros plêsion tou pyros, hôs aleainesthai men, blaptesthai de mêden; kai pollê g' hautê hê paidia peri te tên Iônian kai en allois ethnesin ouk oligois estin. epilegousi de dê kai tin' epê tribontes en metrô te tini kai melei kai rhythmô kai esti panta ta rhêmata tauta parakeleusis tê kystei pros tên auxêsîn. epeidan d' hikanôs autois diatetasthai dokê, palin emphysôsi te kai epidiasteinousi kai authis tribousi kai touto pleonakis poiousin, achris an autois hê kystis hikanôs echein dokê tês auxêseôs. all' en toutois ge tois ergois tôn paidôn enargôs, hoson eis megethos epididôsin hê entos eurychôria tês kysteôs, tosouton anankaion eis leptotêta kathaireisthai to sôma kai ei ge tên leptotêta tautên anatrephein hoioi t' êsan hoi paides, homoiôs an tê physei tên kystin ek mikras megalên apeirgazonto. nyni de tout' autois endei to ergon oude kath' hena tropon eis mimêsîn endechomenon achthênai mê hoti tois || paisin all' oud' allô tini; monês gar tês physeôs idion estin.

Pg 28
[Greek text](#)

Hôt' êdê soi dêlon, hôs anankaia tois auxanomenois hê threpsis. ei gar diateinoito men, anatrephoito de mê, phantasian pseudê mallon, ouk auxêsîn alêthê ta toiauta sômata ktêsetai. kaitoi kai to diateinesthai pantê monois tois hypo physeôs auxanomenois hyparchei. ta gar hyph' hêmôn diateinomena sômata kata mian tina diastasin touto paschonta meioutai tais loipais, oud' estin heurein ouden, ho syneches eti menon kai adiaspaston eis tas treis diastaseis epekteinaï dynametha. monês oun tês physeôs to pantê diistanai syneches heautô menon eti kai tên archaian hapasan idean phylatton to sôma.

Kai tout' estin hê auxêsis aneu tês epirrheousês te kai prosplattomenês trophês mê dynamênê genesthai.

Pg 30
[Greek text](#)

VIII

- 19 Kai toinyn ho logos hêkein eoiken ho peri tês threpseôs, hos dê loipos esti kai tritos hôn ex archês prouthemetha. tou gar epirrheontos en eidei trophês panti || moriô tou trephomenou sômatos prosplattomenou threpsis men hê energeia, threptikê de dynamis hê aitia. alloiôsis men dê kantautha to genos tês energeias, all' ouch hoiaper hê en tê genesei. ekei men gar ouk on proteron hysteron egeneto, kata de tên threpsin tô êdê gegonoti synexomoioutai to epirrheon kai dia tout' eulogôs ekeinên men tên alloiôsin genesin, tautên d' exomoiôsin ônomasan.

IX

- 20 Epeidê de peri tôn triôn dynamêôn tês physeôs autarkôs eirêtai kai phainetai mêdemias allês prosdeisthai to zôon, echon ge kai hopôs auxêthê kai hopôs teleiôthê kai hopôs heôs pleistou diaphylachthê, doxeie men an isôs hikanôs echein ho logos houtos êdê kai pasas exêgeisthai tas tês physeôs dynameis. all' ei tis palin ennoêseien, hôs oudenos oudepô tôn tou zôou moriôn ephêpsato, koilias legô kai enterôn kai hêpatos kai tôn homoiôn, oud' exêgêsato tas en autois dynameis, authis doxeien an hoion prooimion ti monon eirêsthai tês chrêsîmou didaskalias. || to gar sympan hôt' echei. genesis kai auxêsis kai threpsis ta prôta kai hoion kephalaia tôn ergôn esti tês physeôs; hôste kai hai toutôn ergastikai dynameis hai prôtai treis eisi kai kyriôtatai; deontai d' eis hypêresian, hôs êdê dedeiktai, kai allêlôn kai allôn. tinôn men oun hê gennêtikê te kai auxêtikê deontai, eirêtai, tinôn d' hê threptikê, nyn eirêsetai.

Pg 32
[Greek text](#)

X

- 21 Dokô gar moi deixein ta peri tên tês trophês oikonomian organa te kai tas dynameis autôn dia tautên gegonota. epeidê gar hê energeia tautês tês dynamêôs exomoiôsis estin, homoiousthai de kai metaballein eis allêla pasi tois ousin adynaton, ei mê tina echoi koinônian êdê kai syngeneian en tais poiôtêsi, dia touto prôton men ouk ek pantôn edesmatôn pan zôon trephesthai pephyken, epeita d' oud' ex hôn hoion t' estin oud' ek toutôn parachrêma, kai dia tautên tên anankên pleionôn organôn alloiôtikôn tês trophês hekaston || tôn zôôn chrêzei. hina men gar to xanthon erythron genêtai kai to erythron xanthon, haplês kai mias deitai tês alloiôseôs; hina de to leukon melan kai to melan leukon, hapasôn tôn metaxy. kai toinyn kai to malakôtaton ouk an athroôs sklêrotaton kai to sklêrotaton ouk an athroôs malakôtaton genoito, hôsper oude to dysôdestaton euôdestaton oud' empalin to euôdestaton dysôdestaton exaiphnês genoit' an.

Pg 34
[Greek text](#)

22 Pôs oun ex haimatos ostoun an pote genoito mê pachynthentos ge proteron epi pleiston autou kai leukanthentos ê pôs ex artou to haima mê kata brachy men apothemenou tèn leukotêta, kata brachy de lambanontos tèn erythrotêta? sarka men gar ex haimatos genesthai rhastron; ei gar eis tosouton auto pachyneien hê physis, hôs systasin tina schein kai mêket' einai rhyton, hê prôtê kai neopagês houtôs an eiê sarx; ostoun d' hina genêtai, pollou men deitai chronou, pollês d' ergasias kai metabolês tô haimati. hoti de kai tô artô kai poly mallon thrída||kinê kai teutlô kai tois homoiôis pampollês deitai tês alloiôseôs eis haimatos genesin, oude tout' adêlon.

23 Hen men dê tout' aition tou polla genesthai ta peri tèn tês trophês alloiôsin organa. deuteron d' hê tòn perittômatôn physis. hôs gar hypo botanôn oud' holôs dynametha trephesthai, kaitoi tòn boskêmatôn trephomenôn, houtôs hypo raphanidos trephometha men, all' ouch hôs hypo tòn kreôn. toutôn men gar oligou dein holôn hê physis hêmôn kratei kai metaballei kai alloioi kai chrêston ex autôn haima synistêsîn; en de tê raphanidi to men oikeion te kai metablêthênai dynamenon, mogis kai touto kai syn pollê tê katergasia, pantapasin elachiston; holê d' oligou dein esti perittômatikê kai diexerchetai ta tês pepseôs organa, bracheos ex autês eis tas phlebas analêphthentos haimatos kai oude toutou teleôs chrêstou. deuteras oun authis edeêse diakriseôs tê physei tòn en tais phlepsi perittômatôn. kai chreia kai toutois hodôn te tinôn heterôn epi tas ek||krisis auta paragousôn, hôs mê lymainoito tois chrêstois, hypodochôn te tinôn hoion dexamenôn, en hais hotan eis hikanon plêthos aphikêtai, tènikaout' ekkrithêsetai.

Deuteron dê soi kai touto to genos tòn en tô sômati moriôn exeurêtai tois perittômasi tês trophês anakeimenon. allo de triton hyper tou pantê pheresthai, kathaper tines hodoi pollai dia tou sômatos holou katatetmêmenai.

Mia men gar eisodos hê dia tou stomatos hapasi tois sitiois, ouch hen de to trephomenon alla pampolla te kai pampoly diestôta. mê toinyn thaumaze to plêthos tòn organôn, hosa threpseôs heneken hê physis edêmiourgêse. ta men gar alloiounta proparaskeuazei tèn epitêdeion hekastô moriô trophên, ta de diakrinei ta perittômata, ta de parapempei, ta d' hypodechetai, ta d' ekkrinei, ta d' hodoi tês pantê phoras eisi tòn chrêstôn chymôn, hôst', eiper boulei tas dynameis tês physeôs hapasas ekmathein, hyper hekastou toutôn an eiê soi tòn organôn episkepton.

24 Archê d' autôn tês didaskalias, hosa || tou telous engys erga te tês physeôs esti kai moria kai dynameis autôn.

XI

Autou de dê palin anamnêsteon hêmîn tou telous, houper heneka tosauta te kai toiauta tê physei dedêmiourgêtai moria. to men oun onoma tou pragmatos, hôsper kai proteron eirêtai, threpsis; ho de kata tounoma logos homoiôsis tou trephontos tô trephomenô. hina d' hautê genêtai, proêgêsasthai chrê prospophysin, hina d' ekeinê, prosthesin. epeidan gar ekpêsê tòn angeiôn ho mellôn threpsein hotioun tòn tou zôou moriôn chymos, eis hapan auto diaspeiretai prôton, epeita prostithetai kapeita prosphyetai kai teleôs homoioutai.

25 Dêlousi d' hai kaloumenai leukai tèn diaphoran homoiôseôs te kai prospyseôs, hôsper to genos ekeino tòn hyderôn, ho tines onomazousin ana sarka, diorizei saphôs prosthesin prospyseôs. ou gar endeia dêpou tês epirrheousês hygrotêtos, hôs eniai tòn atrophion te kai phthiseôn, hê tou toioutou genesis hyderou || synteleitai. phainetai gar hikanôs hê te sarx hygra kai diabrochos hekaston te tòn stereôn tou sômatos moriôn hôsautôs diakeimenon. alla prosthesis men tis gignetai tês epipheromenês trophês, hate d' hydatôdesteras ousês eti kai mê pany ti kechymômenês mêde to glischron ekeino kai kollôdes, ho dê tês emphytou thermasias oikonomia prosgignetai, kektêmenês hê prospophysis adynatos estin epiteleisthai plêthei leptês hygrotêtos aseptou diarrheousês te kai rhadiôs olisthainousês apo tòn stereôn tou sômatos moriôn tês trophês. en de tais leukais prospophysin men tis gignetai tês trophês, ou mên exomoiôsis ge. kai dêlon en tôde to mikrô prosthen rhêthen hôs orthôs elegeto to dein prosthesin men prôton, ephexês de prospophysin, epeit' exomoiôsin genesthai tô mellonti trephesthai.

26 Kyriôs men oun to trephon êdê trophê, to d' hoion men trophê, oupô de trephon, hopoion esti to prospyomenon ê prostithemenon, trophê men ou kyriôs, homônymôs de trophê; to d' en tais phlepsin eti periechomenon || kai toutou mallon eti to kata tèn gastera tô mellein pote threpsein, ei kalôs katergastheî, keklêtai trophê. kata tauta de kai tòn edesmatôn hekaston trophên onomazomen oute tô trephein êdê to zôn oute tô toiouton hyparchein hoion to trephon, alla tô dynasthai te kai mellein trephein, ei kalôs katergastheî.

Touto gar ên kai to pros Hippokratous legomenon; "Trophê de to trephon, trophê kai to hoion trophê kai to mellon." to men gar homoioumenon êdê trophên ônomase, to d' hoion men ekeino prostithemenon ê prospyomenon hoion trophên; to d' allo pan, hoson en tê gastri kai tais phlepsi periechetai, mellon.

Pg 36
[Greek text](#)

Pg 38
[Greek text](#)

Pg 40
[Greek text](#)

Pg 42
[Greek text](#)

XII

Hoti men oun anankaion homoiôsin tin' einai tou trephontos tô trephomenô tèn threpsin, antikrysin dêlon. ou mên hyparchousan ge tautên tèn homoiôsin, alla phainomenên monon einai phasin hoi mête technikên oiomenoi tèn physin einai mête pronoêtikên tou zôou mêth' holôs tinas oikeias echein dynameis, hais chrômenê ta men alloioi, ta d' helkei, || ta d' ekkrinei.

Kai hautai dyo gegonasin haireseis kata genos en iatrikê te kai philosophia tòn apophênamenôn ti peri physeôs andrôn, hosoi g' autôn gignôskousin, ho ti legousi, kai tèn akolouthian hôn hypethento theôrousi th' hama kai diaphylattousin. hosoi de mêd' auto touto syniasin, all' haplôs, ho ti an epi glôttan elthê, lêrousin, en oudetera tòn haireseôn akribôs katamenontes, oude memnêsthai tòn toioutôn prosêkei.

Pg 44

[Greek text](#)

Tines oun hai dyo haireseis hautai kai tis hê tòn en autais hypotheseôn akolouthia? tèn hypobêblêmenên ousian genesei kai phthora pasan hênômenên th' hama kai alloiousthai dynamenên hypetheto thateron genos tês haireseôs, ametablêton de kai analloiôton kai katatetmêmenên eis lepta kai kenais tais metaxy chôrais dieilêmmenên hê loipê.

Kai toinyn hosoi ge tês akolouthias tòn hypotheseôn aisthanontai, kata men tèn deuteran hairetin oute physeôs oute psychês idian tina nomizousin ousian ê dynamin hyparchein, || all' en tê poia synodô tòn prôtôn ekeinôn sômatôn tòn apathôn apoteleisthai. kata de tèn proteran eirêmenên hairetin ouch hystera tòn sômatôn hê physis, alla poly protera te kai presbytera. kai toinyn kata men toutous hautê ta sômata tòn te phytôn kai tòn zôôn synistês dynamis tinas echousa tas men helktikas th' hama kai homoiôtikas tòn oikeiôn, tas d' apokritikas tòn allotriôn, kai technikôs hapanta diaplattêi te gennôsa kai pronoetai tòn gennômenôn heterais authis tisi dynamesi, sterktikê men tini kai pronoêtikê tòn engonôn, koinônîkê de kai philikê tòn homogenôn. kata d' au tous heterous oute toutôn ouden hyparchei tais physesin out' ennoia tis esti tê psychê symphytos ex archês ouk akolouthias ou machês, ou diaireseôs ou syntheseôs, ou dikaiôn ouk adikôn, ou kalôn ouk aischrôn, all' ex aisthêseôs te kai di' aisthêseôs hapanta ta toiauth' hêmin engignesthai phasi kai phantasiais tisi kai mnêmais oiakizesthai ta zôa.

Pg 46

[Greek text](#)

Enioi || d' autôn kai rhêtôs apephênanto mêdemian einai tês psychês dynamin, hê logizometha, all' hypo tòn aisthêtôn agesthai pathôn hêmas kathaper boskêmata pros mêden ananeusai mêd' anteipein dynamenous. kath' hous dêlonoti kai andreia kai phronêsis kai sôphrosynê kai enkrateia lêros esti makros kai philoumen out' allêlous oute ta engona kai tois theois ouden hêmôn melei. kataphronousi de kai tòn oneiratôn kai tòn oiônôn kai tòn symbolôn kai pasês astrologias, hyper hôn hêmeis men idia di' heterôn grammatôn epi pleon eskepsametha peri tòn Asklêpiadou tou iatrou skopoumenoi dogmatôn. enesti de tois boulomenois kakeinois men homilêsai tois logois kai nyn d' êdê skopein, hôsper tinôn dyoin hodôn hêmin prokeimenôn, hopoteroan beltion esti trepesthai. Hippokratês men gar tèn proteran rhêtheisan etrapeto, kath' hên hênôtai men hê ousia kai alloioutai kai sympnoun holon esti kai syrroun to sôma kai hê physis hapanta technikôs kai dikaiôs prattei dynamis echousa, kath' has hekaston tòn moriôn helkei men || eph' heauto ton oikeion heautô chymon, helxan de prospheyi te panti merei tòn en hautô kai teleôs exomoioi, to de mê kratêthen en toutô mêde tèn pantelê dynêthen alloiôsin te kai homoiotêta tou trephomenou katadexasthai di' heteras au tinos ekkritikês dynamis apotribetai.

Pg 48

[Greek text](#)

XIII

Mathein d' enestin ou monon ex hôn hoi tanantia tithemenoi diapherontai tois enargôs phainomenois, eis hoson orthotêtos te kai alêtheias hêkei ta Hippokratous dogmata, alla kax autôn tòn kata meros en tê physikê theôria zêtoumenôn tòn t' allôn hapantôn kai tòn en tois zôois energeiôn. hosoi gar oudemian oudeni moriô nomizousin hyparchein helktikên tês oikeias poiôtêtos dynamin, anankazontai pollakis enantia legein tois enargôs phainomenois, hôsper kai Asklêpiadês ho iatros epi tòn nephron epoiêsen, hous ou monon Hippokratês ê Dioklês ê Erasistratos ê Praxagoras ê tis allos iatros aristos organa diakritika tòn ourôn pepisteukasin hyparchein, alla kai hoi || mageiroi schedon hapantes isasin, hosêmerai theômenoi tèn te thesin autôn kai ton aph' hekaterou poron eis tèn kystin emballonta, ton ourêtêra kaloumenon, ex autês tês kataskeuês analogizomenoi tèn te chreian autôn kai tèn dynamin. kai pro ge tòn mageirôn hapantes anthrôpoi kai dysourountes pollakis kai pantapasin ischourountes, hotan algôsi men ta kata tas psoas, psammôdê d' exourôsin, nephritikous onomazousi sphas autous.

Pg 50

[Greek text](#)

Asklêpiadên d' oimai mêde lithon ourêthenta pote theasasthai pros tòn houtô paschontôn mêd' hês proêgêsato kata tèn metaxy tòn nephron kai tês kysteôs chôran odyne tis oxeia dierchomenou tou lithou ton ourêtêra mêd' hês ourêthentos autou ta te tês odyneis kai ta tês ischourias epausato parachrêma. pôs oun eis tèn kystin tô logô paragei to ouron, axion akousai kai thaumasai tandros tèn sophian, hos katalipôn houtôs eureias hodous enargôs phainomenas aphanes kai stenas kai pantapasin anaisthêtous || hypetheto. bouletai gar eis atmous analyomenon to

32

pinomenon hygron eis tèn kystin diadidosthai kapeit' ex ekeinôn authis allêlois syniontôn houtôs apolambanein auto tèn archaian idean kai gignesthai palin hygron ex atmôn atechnôs hôs peri spongiâs tinos ê eriou tês kysteôs dianoooumenos, all' ou sômatos akribôs pyknou kai steganou dyo chitônâs ischryrotatous kektêmenou, di' hôn eiper dierchesthai phêsomen tous atmous, ti dêpot' ouchi dia tou peritonaiou kai tòn phrenôn dielthontes eneplêsân hydatos to t' epigastriou hapan kai ton thôraka? alla pachyteros, phêsîn, esti dêladê kai steganôteros ho peritonaios chitôn tês kysteôs kai dia tout' ekeinos men apostegei tous atmous, hê de kystis paradechetai. all' eiper anatetmêkei pote, tach' an êpistato ton men exôthen chitôna tês kysteôs apo tou peritonaiou pephykota tèn autên ekeinô physin echein, ton d' endothen ton autês tês kysteôs idion pleon ê diplasion ekeinou to pachos hyparchein.

Pg 52
[Greek text](#)

33 All' isôs oute to || pachos outh' hê leptotês tòn chitônôn, all' hê thesis tês kysteôs aitia tou pheresthai tous atmous eis autên. kai mên ei kai dia talla pithanon ên autous entauthoi synathroizesthai, to ge tês theseôs monês autarkes kôlytai. katô men gar hê kystis keitai, tois d' atmois symphytos hê pros to meteôron phora, hôste poly proteron an eplêsân hapanta ta kata ton thôraka te kai ton pneumona, prin epi tèn kystin aphikesthai.

Kaitoi ti theseôs kysteôs kai peritonaiou kai thôrakos mnêmoneuô? diekpesontes gar dêpou tous te tês koilias kai tòn enterôn chitônâs hoi atmoi kata tèn metaxy chôran autôn te toutôn kai tou peritonaiou synathroisthêsontai kai hygron entauthoi genêsontai, hôsper kai tois hyderikois en toutô tô chôriô to pleiston athroizetai tou hydatos, ê pantôs autous chrê pheresthai prosô dia pantôn tòn hopôsoun homilountôn kai mêdepoth' histasthai. all' ei kai touto tis hypothoito, diekpesontes an houtôs ou to peritonaiou monon alla kai to epigastriou, eis to periechon skedastheien ê pantôs an hypo tô dermati || synathroistheien.

Pg 54
[Greek text](#)

34 Alla kai pros taut' antilegein hoi nyn Asklêpiadeioi peirôntai, kaitoi pros hapantôn aei tòn paratynchanontôn autois, hotan peri toutôn erizôsi, katagelômenoi. houtôs ara dysapotropion ti kakon estin hê peri tas haireseis philotimia kai dyseknipion en tois malista kai psôras hapasês dysiatoteron.

Tôn goun kath' hêmas tis sophistôn ta t' alla kai peri tous eristikous logous hikanôs synkekrotêmenos kai deinos eipein, eiper tis allos, aphikomenos emoi poth' hyper toutôn eis logous, tosouton apedei tou dysôpeisthai pros tinos tòn eirêmenôn, hôste kai thaumazein ephasken emou ta saphôs phainomena logois lêrôdesin anatrepein epicheirountos. enargôs gar hosêmerai theôreisthai tas kysteis hapasas, ei tis autas emplêseien hydatos ê aeros, eita dêsas ton trachêlon piezoi pantachothern, oudamothern methieisas ouden, all' akribôs hapan entos heautôn stegousas. kaitoi g' eiper êsan tines ek tòn nephron eis autas hêkontes aisthêtoi kai megaloi poroi, pantôs an, ephê, di' ekeinôn, hôsper eisêei to || hygron eis autas, houtô kai thlibontôn exekrineto. tauta kai ta toiaut' eipôn exaiphnês aptaistô kai saphei tô stomati teleutôn anapêdêsas apêei katalipôn hêmas hôs oude pithanês tinos antilogias euporêsai dynamenous.

Pg 56
[Greek text](#)

35 Houtôs ou monon hygies ouden isasin hoi tais hairesesi douleuontes, all' oude mathein hypomenousi. deon gar akousai tèn aitian, di' hên eisienai men dynatai dia tòn ourêtêrôn eis tèn kystin to hygron, exienai d' authis opisô tèn autên hodon ouketh' hoion te, kai thaumasai tèn technên tês physeôs, oute mathein ethelousi kai loidorountai proseti matên hyp' autês alla te polla kai tous nephrous gegonenai phaskontes. eisi d' hoi kai deichthênai parontôn autôn tous apo tòn nephron eis tèn kystin emphyomenous ourêtêras hypomeinantes etolmêsân eipein hoi men, hoti matên kai houtoi gegonasin, hoi d', hoti spermaticoi tines eisi poroi kai dia touto kata ton trachêlon autês, ouk eis to kytos emphyontai. deixantes oun hêmeis autois tous hôs alêthôs spermaticous porous katôterô tòn ourêtêrôn || emballontas eis ton trachêlon, nyn goun, ei kai mê proteron, ôêthêmen apaxein te tòn pseudôs hypeilêmmenôn epi te tanantia metastêsein autika. hoi de kai pros tout' antilegein etolmôn ouden einai thaumaston eipontes, en ekeinois men hôs an steganôterois ousin epi pleon hypomenein to sperma, kata de tous apo tòn nephron hôs an hikanôs aneurysmenous ekrein dia tacheôn. hêmeis oun ênankasthêmen autois tou loipou deiknyein eisreon tê kystei dia tòn ourêtêrôn to ouron enargôs epi zôntos eti tou zôou, mogis an houtô pote tèn phlyarian autôn epischêsein elpizontes.

Pg 58
[Greek text](#)

36 Ho de tropos tês deixêôs esti toiosde. dielein chrê to pro tòn ourêtêrôn peritonaiou, eita brochois autous eklabein kapeit' epidêsantas easai to zôon; ou gar an ourêseien eti. meta de tauta lyein men tous exôthen desmous, deiknynai de kenên men tèn kystin, mestous d' hikanôs kai diatetamenous tous ourêtêras kai kindyneuontas rhagênai kapeita tous brochous autôn aphelontas enargôs horan êdê plêroumenên ourou tèn kystin.

37 Epi de toutô || phanenti, prin ourêsai to zôon, brochou autou peribalein chrê tô aidoiô kapeita thlibein pantachothern tèn kystin. oude gar an ouden eti dia tòn ourêtêrôn epanelthoi pros tous nephrous. kan toutô dêlon gignetai to mê monon epi tethneôtos alla kai periontos eti tou zôou kôlyesthai metalambanein authis ek tês kysteôs tous ourêtêras to ouron. epi toutois ophtheisin epitrepein êdê to zôon ourein lyontas autou ton epi tô aidoiô brochou, eit' authis epibalein men thaterô tòn ourêtêrôn, easai de

ton heteron eis tèn kystin syrrhein kai tina dialipontas chronon epideiknyein êdê, pôs ho men heteros autôn ho dedemenos mestos kai diatetamenos kata ta pros tôn nephron merê phainetai, ho d' heteros ho lelymenos autos men chalaros esti, peplêrôke d' ourou tèn kystin. eit' authis diatemein prôton men ton plêrê kai deixai, pôs exakontizetai to ouron ex autou, kathaper en tais phlebotomiais to haima, meta tauta de kai ton heteron authis diatemein kapeit' epidêsai to zôon exôthen, amphoterôn diêrêmênôn, || eith' hotan hikanôs echein dokê, lysai ton desmon. heurethêsetai gar hê men kystis kenê, plêres d' ourou to metaxy tôn enterôn te kai tou peritonaiou chônion hapan, hôs an ei kai hyderikon ên to zôon. taut' oun ei tis autos kath' heauton boulêtheiê basanizein epi zôou, megalôs moi dokei katagnôsesthai tês Asklêpiadou propeteias. ei de dê kai tèn aitian mathoi, di' hên ouden ek tês kysteôs eis tous ourêtêras antekrei, peisthênai an moi dokei kai dia toude tèn eis ta zôa pronoian te kai technên tês physeôs.

Pg 60
[Greek text](#)

Hippokratês men oun hôn ismen iatrôn te kai philosophôn prôtos hapantôn, hôs an kai prôtos epignous ta tês physeôs erga, thaumazei te kai dia pantos autên hymnei dikaian onomazôn kai monên exarkein eis hapanta tois zôois phêsîn, autên ex hautês adidaktôs prattousan hapanta ta deonta; toiautên d' ousan autên eutheôs kai dynameis hypelaben echein helktikên men tôn oikeiôn, apokritikên de tôn allotriôn kai trephein te kai auxein au||tên ta zôa kai krinein ta nosêmata; kai dia tout' en tois sômasin hêmôn sympnoian te mian einai phêsi kai syrrhoian kai panta sympatheia. kata de ton Asklêpiadên ouden ouden sympathes esti physei, diêrêmênês te kai katatethrausmenês eis anarma stoicheia kai lêrôdeis onkous hapasês tês ousias. ex anakês oun alla te myria tois enargôs phainomenois enantiôs apephênato kai tês physeôs êgnoêse tèn te tôn oikeiôn epispastikên dynamin kai tèn tôn allotriôn apokritikên. epi men oun tês exaimatôseôs te kai anadoseôs exeure tina psychran adoleschian; eis de tèn tôn perittômatôn katharsin ouden holôs heurôn eipein ouk ôknêsen homose chôrêsai tois phainomenois, epi men tês tôn ourôn diakriseôs aposterêsas men tôn te nephron kai tôn ourêtêrôn tèn energieian, adêlous de tinas porous eis tèn kystin hypothemenos; touto gar ên dêladê mega kai semnon apistêsanta tois phainomenois pisteusai tois adêlois.

Pg 62
[Greek text](#)

Epi || de tês xanthês cholês eti meizon autô kai neanikôteron esti to tolmêma; gennasthai gar autên en tois cholêdochois angeiois, ou diakrinesthai legei.

Pôs oun tois ikterikois ham' amphô sympiptei, ta men diachôrêmata mêden holôs en hautois echonta cholês, anapleôn d' autois gignomenon holon to sôma? lêrein palin entauth' anakazetai tois epi tôn ourôn eirêmenois paraplêsiôs. lêrei d' ouden hêtton kai peri tês melainês cholês kai tou splênos oute ti poth' hyph' Hippokratous eirêtai synieis antilegein t' epicheirôn hois ouk oiden emplêktô tini kai manikô stomati.

Pg 64
[Greek text](#)

Ti dê to kerdos ek tôn toioutôn dogmatôn eis tas therapeias ektêsato? mête nephritikon ti nosêma dynasthai therapeusai mêt' ikterikon mête melancholikon, alla kai peri tou pasin anthrôpois ouch Hippokratei monon homologoumenou tou kathairein tôn pharmakôn enia men tèn xanthên cholên, enia de tèn melainan, alla de tina phlegma kai tina to lepton kai hydatôdes perittôma, mêde peri toutôn synchôrein, all' hyp' autôn tôn pharmakôn gignesthai legein toiouton hekaston tôn kenoumenôn, hôsper hypo tôn cholê||dochôn porôn tèn cholên; kai mêden diapherein kata ton thaumaston Asklêpiadên ê hydragôgon didonai tois hyderiôsîn ê cholagôgon pharmakon; hapanta gar homoiôs kenoun kai syntêkein to sôma kai to syntêgma toionde ti phainesthai poiein, mê proteron hyparchon toiouton.

Ar' oun ou mainesthai nomisteon auton ê pantapasin apeiron einai tôn ergôn tês technês? tis gar ouk oiden, hôs, ei men phlegmatos agôgon dotheiê pharmakon tois ikteriôsîn, ouk an oude tettaras kyathous kathartheien; houtô d' oud' ei tôn hydragôgon ti; cholagôgô de pharmakô pleiston men ekkenoutai cholês, autika de katharos tois houtô kathartheisin ho chrôs gignetai. pollous goun hêmeis meta to therapeusai tèn en tô hêpati diathesin hapax kathêrantes apêllaxamen tou pathêmatos. ou mên oud' ei phlegmatos agôgô kathairois pharmakô, pleon an ti diapraxaio.

Kai taut' ouch Hippokratês men houtôs oide gignomena, tois d' apo tês empeirias monês hormômenois heterôs egnôstai, alla kakei||nois hôsautôs kai pasin iatrois, hois melei tôn ergôn tês technês, houtô dokei plên Asklêpiadou. prodosian gar einai nenomike tôn stoicheiôn hôn hypetheto tèn alêthê peri tôn toioutôn homologian. ei gar holôs heuretheiê ti pharmakon helktikon toude tinos tou chymou monou, kindynos kratain dêladê tô logô to en hekastô tôn sômatôn einai tina dynamin epispastikên tês oikeias poiôtêtos. dia touto knêkon men kai kokkon ton knidion kai hippophaes ouch helkein ek tou sômatos alla poiein to phlegma phêsîn; anthos de chalkou kai lepida kai auton ton kekaumenon chalkon kai chamaidryn kai chamaileonta eis hydôr analyein to sôma kai tous hyderikous hypo toutôn ou kathairomenous oninasthai alla kenoumenous synauxontôn dêladê to pathos. ei gar ou kenoi to periechomenon en tois sômasin hydatôdes hygron all' auto genna, tô nosêmati prostimôreitai. kai men ge kai hê skammônia pros tô mê kenoun ek tou sômatos tôn ikterikôn tèn cholên eti kai to chrêston haima cholên ergazomenê || kai syntêkousa to sôma kai têlikauta kaka drôsa kai to pathos epauxousa kata ge ton Asklêpiadou logon.

Pg 66
[Greek text](#)

Homôs enargôs horatai pollous ôphelousa. nai, phêsin, oninantai men, all' autô monô tô logô tês kenôseôs. kai mên ei phlegmatos agôgon autois doiês pharmakon, ouk onêsontai. kai touth' houtôs enarges estin, hôste kai hoi apo monês tês empeirias hormômenoi gignôskousin auto. kaitoi toutois ge tois andrasin auto dê tout' esti philosophêma, to mêdeni logô pisteuein alla monois tois enargôs phainomenois. ekeinoi men oun sôphronousin; Asklêpiadês de parapaiei tais aisthêsesin hêmas apistein keleuôn, entha to phainomenon anatrepei saphôs autou tas hypotheseis. kaitoi makrô g' ên ameinion ouch homose chôrein tois phainomenois all' ekeinois anathesthai to pan.

Pg 68
[Greek text](#)

44 Ar' oun tauta monon enargôs machetai tois Asklêpiadou dogmasin ê kai to therous men pleiona kenousthai tèn xanthên cholên hypo tôn autôn pharmakôn, cheimônos de to phlegma, kai neaniskô men pleiona tèn cholên, presbytê de to phlegma? phainetai || gar hekaston helkein tèn ousan, ouk auto gennan tèn ouk ousan. ei goun ethelêsais neaniskô tini tôn ischnôn kai thermôn hôra therous mêt' argôs bebiôkoti mêt' en plêsmonê phlegmatos agôgon dounai pharmakon, oligiston men kai meta bias pollês ekkenôseis tou chymou, blapseis d' eschatôs ton anthrôpon; empalin d' ei cholagôgon doiês, kai pampoly kenôseis kai blapseis ouden.

Ar' apistoumen eti tô mê ouch hekaston tôn pharmakôn epagesthai ton oikeion heautô chymon? isôs phêsousin hoi ap' Asklêpiadou, mallon d' ouk isôs, alla pantôs apistein erousin, hina mê prodôsi ta philtata.

Pg 70
[Greek text](#)

XIV

Palin oun kai hêmeis eph' heteran metabômen adoleschian; ou gar epitrepousin hoi sophistai tôn axiôn ti zêtêmatôn procheirizesthai kaitoi pampollôn hyparchontôn, alla katatribein anankazousi ton chronon eis tèn tôn sophismatôn, hôn proballousi, lysin.

45 Tis oun hê adoleschia? hê endoxos hautê kai polythrylêtos lithos hê ton sidêron || epispômenê. tacha gar an hautê pote tèn psychên autôn epispsaito pisteuein einai tinas en hekastô tôn sômatôn helktikas tôn oikeiôn poiôtêtôn dynameis.

Epikouros men oun kaitoi paraplêsiôs Asklêpiadê stoicheiôs pros tèn physiologian chrômenos homôs homologei, pros men tês hêrakleias lithou ton sidêron helkesthai, pros de tôn êlektrôn ta kyrêbia kai peiratai ge kai tèn aitian apodidonai tou phainomenou. tas gar aporrhousas atomous apo tês lithou tais aporrhousais apo tou sidêrou tois schêmasin oikeias einai phêsin, hôste periplekesthai rhadiôs. proskrouousas oun autas tois synkrimasin hekaterois tês te lithou kai tou sidêrou kapeit' eis to meson apopallomenas houtôs allêlais te periplekesthai kai synepispasthai ton sidêron. to men oun tôn hypotheseôn eis tèn aitiologian apithanon antikrys dêlon, homôs d' oun homologei tèn holkên. kai houtô ge kai kata ta sômata tôn zôn phêsi gignesthai tas t' anadoseis kai tas diakriseis tôn perittômatôn kai tas tôn kathairontôn pharmakôn energieas.

Pg 72
[Greek text](#)

46 Asklêpiadês dê to te tês eirêmenês aitias apithanon || hypidomenos kai mêdemian allên eph' hois hypetheto stoicheiôs exeuriskôn pithanên epi to mêd' holôs helkesthai legein hypo mêdenos mêden anaischyntêsas etrapeto, deon, ei mêth' hois Epikouros eipen êresketo mêt' alla beltiô legein eichen, apostênai tôn hypotheseôn kai tèn te physin eipein technikên kai tèn ousian tôn ontôn henoumenên te pros heautên aei kai alloiomenên hypo tôn heautês moriôn eis allêla drôntôn te kai paschontôn. ei gar tauth' hypetheto, chalepon ouden ên tèn technikên ekeinên physin homologêsai dynameis echein epispastikên men tôn oikeiôn, apokritikên de tôn allotriôn. ou gar di' allo ti g' ên autê to teknikê t' einai kai tou zôou diasôstikê kai tôn nosêmatôn kritikê para to prosiesthai men kai phylattein to oikeion, apokrinein de to allotrion.

47 All' Asklêpiadês kantautha to men akolouthon tais archais hais hypetheto syneiden, ou mên tèn ge pros to phainomenon enargôs êdesthê machên, all' homose || chôrei kai peri toutou pasin ouk iatrois monon all' êdê kai tois allois anthrôpois oute krisin einai tina legôn outh' hêmeran krisimon outh' holôs ouden epi sôtêria tou zôou pragmateusasthai tèn physin. aei gar to men akolouthon phylattein bouletai, to d' enargôs phainomenon anatrepein empalin Epikourô. titheis gar ekeinos aei to phainomenon aitian autou psychran apodidôsi. ta gar apopallomena smikra sômata tês hêrakleias lithou toioutois heterois periplekesthai moriois tou sidêrou kapeita dia tês periplokês tautês mêdamou phainomenês epispasthai bareian houtôs ousian ouk oid' hopôs an tis peistheî. kai gar ei touto synchôrêsomen, to ge tô sidêrô palin heteron prostethen ti synaptesthai tèn autên aitian ouketi prosietai.

Pg 74
[Greek text](#)

48 Ti gar eroumen? ê dêladê tôn aporrhontôn tês lithou moriôn enia men proskrousanta tô sidêrô palin apopallesthai kai tauta men einai, di' hôn kremannysthai symbainei ton sidêron, ta d' eis auton eisdyomena dia tôn || kenôn porôn diexerchesthai tachista kapeita tô parakeimenô sidêrô proskrouonta mêt' ekeinon diadynai dynasthai, kaitoi ton ge prôton diadynta, palindromounta d' authis epi ton proteron heteras authis ergazesthai tais proterais homoias periplokas?

Enargôs gar entautha to lêrôdes tês aitias elenchetai. grapheia goun oida pote sidêra pente kata to syneches allêlois synaphthenta, tou prôtou men monou tês lithou

psausantos, ex ekeinou d' eis talla tês dynamêôs diadotheisês; kai ouk estin eipein, hôs, ei men tô katô tou grapheiou perati prosagois heteron, echetai te kai synaptetai kai krematai to prosenechthen; ei d' allô tini merei tôn plagiôn prostheîês, ou synaptetai. pantê gar homoiôs hê tês lithou diadidotai dynamis, ei monon hapsaito kata ti tou prôtou grapheiou. kai mentoi kak toutou palin eis to deuteron holon hê dynamis hama noêmati diarrhei kax ekeinou palin eis to triton holon. ei dê noêsais smikran tina lithon hêrakteian en oikô tini kremamenên, eit' en kyklô psauonta pampolla sidêria kakeinôn palin hetera kakeinôn alla kai tout' achri pleionos, hapanta || dèpou pimplasthai dei ta sidêria tôn aporrhèontôn tês lithou sômatôn. kai kindyneuei diaphorêthênai to smikron ekeino lithidion eis tas aporrhôas dialythen. kaitoi, kan ei mêden parakeoit' autô sidêrion, eis ton aera skedannytai, malist' ei kai thermos hyparchoi.

Pg 76
[Greek text](#)

Nai, phêsi, smikra gar auta chrê pany noein, hôste tôn empheromenôn tô aeri psêgmatôn toutôn dê tôn smikrotatôn ekeinôn enia myrioston einai meros. eit' ex houtô smikrôn tolmate legein kremannysthai barê têlikauta sidêrou? ei gar hekaston autôn myrioston esti meros tôn en tô aeri pheromenôn psêgmatôn, pèlikon chrê noêsai to peras autôn to ankistroeides, hô peripleketai pros allêla? pantôs gar dèpou touto smikrotaton estin holou tou psêgmatos.

Eita mikron mikrô, kinoumenon kinoumenô periplaken ouk euthys apopalletai. kai gar dê kai all' atta pantôs autois, ta men anôthen, ta de katôthen, kai ta men emprosthen, ta d' opisthen, ta d' ek tôn dexiôn, ta d' ek tôn aristerôn || ekrêgnymena seiei te kai brattei kai menein ouk ea. kai mentoi kai polla chrê noein ex anankês hekaston ekeinôn tôn smikrôn sômatôn echein ankistrôdê perata. di' henos men gar allêlois synaptetai, di' heterou d' henos tou men hyperkeimenou tê lithô, tou d' hypokeimenou tô sidêrô. ei gar anô men exaphtheîê tês lithou, katô de tô sidêrô mê symplakeîê, pleon ouden. hôste tou men hyperkeimenou to anô meros ekkremasthai chrê tês lithou, tou d' hypokeimenou tô katô perati synêphthai ton sidêron. epei de kak tôn plagiôn allêlois peripleketai, pantôs pou kantautha echei ta ankistra. kai memnêso moi pro pantôn, hopôs onta smikra tas toiautas kai tosautas apophyseis echei. kai toutou mallon eti, pôs, hina to deuteron sidêrion synaphthê tô prôtô kai tô deuterô to triton kakeinô to tetarton, hama men diexerchesthai chrê tous pourous tauti ta smikra kai lêrôdê psêgmata, hama d' apopallesthai tou met' auto || tetagmenou, kaitoi kata pan homoiou tèn physin hyparchontos.

Pg 78
[Greek text](#)

Oude gar hê toiautê palin hypothesis atolmos, all', ei chrê talêthes eipein, makrô tôn emprosthen anaischyntotera, pente sidêrion homoiôn allêlois ephexês tetagmenôn dia tou prôtou diadyomena rhadiôs tês lithou ta moria kata to deuteron apopallesthai kai mê dia toutou kata ton auton tropon hetoimôs diexerchesthai. kai mên hekaterôs atopon. ei men gar apopalletai, pôs eis to triton ôkeôs diexerchetai? ei d' ouk apopalletai, pôs kremannytai to deuteron ek tou prôtou? tèn gar apopalsin autos hypetheto dêmiourgon tês holkês.

Pg 80
[Greek text](#)

All', hoper ephên, eis adoleschian anankaion empiptein, epeidan tis toioutois andrasi dialegêtai. syntomon oun tina kai kephalaiôdê logon eipôn apallattesthai boulomai. tois Asklêpiadou grammasin ei tis epimelôs homilêseie, tèn te pros tas archas akolouthian tôn toioutôn dogmatôn akribôs an ekmathoi kai tèn pros ta phainomena machên. ho men oun Epikouros ta phainomena phylattein boulomenos aschêmonei || philotimoumenos epideiknyeîn auta tais archais homologounta; ho d' Asklêpiadês to men akolouthon tais archais phylattei, tou phainomenou d' ouden autô melei. hostis oun bouletai tèn atopian exelenchein tôn hypotheseôn, ei men pros Asklêpiadên ho logos autô gignoito, tês pros to phainomenon hypomimnêsketô machês; ei de pros Epikouron, tês pros tas archas diaphônias. hai d' allai schedon haireseis hai tôn homoiôn archôn echomenai teleôs apesbêsan, hautai d' eti monai diarkousin ouk agennôs. kaitoi ta men Asklêpiadou Ménodotos ho empeirikos aphyktôs exelenchei, tèn te pros ta phainomena machên hypomimnêskôn auton kai tèn pros allêla; ta d' Epikourou palin ho Asklêpiadês echomenos aei tês akolouthias, hês ekeinos ou pany ti phainetai phrontizôn.

Pg 82
[Greek text](#)

All' hoi nyn anthrôpoi, prin kai tautas ekmatheîn tas haireseis kai tas allas tas beltious kapeita chronô pollô krinai te kai basanisai to kath' hekastên autôn alêthes te kai pseudos, hoi men iatrous heautous, hoi de philosophous onomazousi mêden eidotes. || ouden oun thaumaston episês tois alêthesi ta pseudê tetimêsthai. hotô gar an hekastos prôtô peritychê didaskalô, toioutos egeneto, mê perimeinas mêden eti par' allou matheîn. enioi d' autôn, ei kai pleiosin entychoien, all' houtô g' eisin asynetoi te kai bradeis tèn dianoiân, hôste kai gegêrakotes oupô syniasin akolouthian logou. palai de tous toioutous epi tas banausous apelyon technas. alla tauta men es ho ti teleutêsei theos oiden.

Hêmeis d' epeidê, kaitoi pheugontes antilegein tois en autais tais archais euthys esphalmenois, homôs ênankasthêmen hyp' autês tôn pragmatôn tês akolouthias eipein tina kai dialechthênai pros autous, eti kai touto prosthêsomen tois eirêmenois, hôs ou monon ta kathaironta pharmaka pepyken epispasthai tas oikeias poiôtêtas alla kai ta tous skolopas anagonta kai tas tôn belôn akidas eis poly bathos sarkos empeparmenas eniote. kai mentoi kai hosa tous ious tôn thêrion ê tous empepharmagmenous tois belesin anelkei, kai tauta tèn autên tais hêrakteiais lithois

54 epi||deiknytai dynamin. egôg' oun oida pote katapeparmenon en podi neaniskou skolopa tois men daktylois helkousin hêmin biaiôs ouk akolouthêsanta, pharmakou d' epitethentos alypôs te kai dia tacheôn anelthonta. kaitoi kai pros touto tines antilegousi phaskontes, hotan hê phlegmonê lythê tou merous, automaton exienai ton skolopa pros oudenos anelkomenon. all' houtoi ge prôton men agnoein eoikasin, hôs alla men esti phlegmonês, alla de tôn houtô katapeparmenôn helktika pharmaka; kaitoi g' eiper aphlegmantôn genomenôn exekrineto ta para physin, hosa phlegmonês esti lytika, taut' euthys an ên kakeinôn helktika.

Pg 84
[Greek text](#)

Deuteron d', ho kai mallon an tis thaumaseien, hôs ou monon alla men tous skolopas, alla de tous ious exagei pharmaka, alla kai autôn tôn tous ious helkontôn ta men ton tês echidnês, ta de ton tês trygonos, ta d' allou tinos epispatai kai saphôs estin idein tois pharmakois epikeimenous autous. entauth' oun Epikouron men epainein chrê tês pros || to phainomenon aidous, memphesthai de ton logon tês aitias. hon gar hêmeis helkontes tois daktylois ouk anêgagomen skolopa, touton hypo tôn smikrôn ekeinôn anelkesthai psêgmatôn, pôs ou pantapasin atopon einai chrê nomizein?

55 Ar' oun êdê pepeismetha tôn ontôn hekastô dynamin tin' hyparchein, hê tèn oikeian helkei poiôtêta, to men mallon, to d' hêtton?

Ê kai to tôn pyrôn eti paradeigma procheirisometha tô logô? phanêsontai gar oimai kai tôn geôrgôn autôn amathesteroi peri tèn physin hoi mêden holôs hypo mêdenos helkesthai synchôrountes; hôs egôge prôton men akousas to gignomenon ethaumasa kai autos êboulêthên autoptês autou katastênai. meta tauta de, hôs kai ta tês peiras hômologei, tèn aitian skopoumenos en pampollô chronô kata pasas tas haireseis oudemian allên heurein hoios t' ên oud' achri tou pithanou proïousan alla katagelastous te kai saphôs exelenchomenas tas allas hapasas plên tês tèn holkên presbeuousês.

Pg 86
[Greek text](#)

56 Esti de to gignomenon toionde. katakomizantes hoi par' hêmin geôrgoi tous || ek tôn agrôn pyrourous eis tèn polin en hamaxais tisin, hotan hyphelesthai boulêthôsin, hôste mê phôrathênai, kerami' atta plêrôsantes hydatos mesois autois enistasin. helkontes oun ekeinoin dia tou keramiou to hygron eis hautous onkon men kai baros prosktôntai, katadêloi d' ou pany gignontai tois horôsin, ei mê tis propepysmenos êdê piergoteron episkopoito. kaitoi g' ei boulêtheiês en hêliô katatheinai pany thermô tauton angeion, elachiston pantelôs heuresei to dapanômenon eph' hekastês hêmeras. houtôs ara kai tês hêliakês thermasias tês sphodras ischyroteran hoi pyroi dynamin echousin helkein eis heautous tèn plêsiazousan hygrotêta. lêros oun entautha makros hê pros to leptomeres phora tou periechontos hêmas aeros kai malisth' hotan hikanôs ê thermos, poly men hyparchontos ê kata tous pyrourous leptomeresterou, dechomenou d' oude to dekatan meros tês eis ekeinous metalambanomenês hygrotêtos.

Pg 88
[Greek text](#)

XV

57 Epei d' hikanôs êdoleschêsamen ouch hekantes, all', hôs hê paroimia phêsi, mainomenois anankasthentes sym||manênai, palin epi tèn tôn ourôn epanelthômen diakrisin, en hê tôn men Asklêpiadou lêrôn epilathômetha, meta de tôn pepeismenôn diêtheisthai ta oura dia tôn nephrôn, tis ho tropos tês energieas estin, episkepsômetha; pantôs gar ê ex hautôn epi tous nephrouous pheretai ta oura touto beltion einai nomizonta, kathaper hêmeis, hopotan eis tèn agoran apiômen; ê, ei tout' adynaton, heteron ti chrê tês phoras autôn exeurein aition. ti dê tout' estin? ei gar mê tois nephrouis dôsomen tina dynamin helktikên tês toiautês poiôtêtos, hôs Hippokratês enomizen, ouden heteron exeureôsomen. hoti men gar êtoi toutous helkein auto prosêken ê tas phlebas pempein, eiper ge mê ex heautou pheretai, panti pou dêlon. all' ei men hai phlebes peristellomenai proôthoien, ouk ekeino monon, alla syn autô kai to pan haima to periechomenon en heutais eis tous nephrouous ekthlipsousin; ei de tout' adynaton, hôs deixomen, leipetai tous nephrouous helkein.

58 Pôs oun adynaton touto? tôn nephrôn hê thesis antibainei. ou gar dê houtô g' hypokeintai tê koilê phlebi || kathaper tois ex enkephalou perittômasin en te tê rhini kai kata tèn hyperôan hoi tois êthmois homioi poroi, all' hekaterôthen autê parakeintai. kai mên, eiper homioiôs tois êthmois hoson an ê leptoteron kai teleôs orrhôdes, touto men hetoimôs diapempousi, to de pachyteron apostegousin, hapan ep' autous ienai chrê to haima to periechomenon en tê koilê phlebi, kathaper eis tous trygêtous ho pas oinos emballetai. kai men ge kai to tou galaktos tou tyroumenou paradeigma saphôs an, ho boulomai legein, endeixaito. kai gar kai touto pan emblêthen eis tous talarous ou pan diêtheitai, all' hoson men an ê leptoteron tês eurytêtos tôn plokamôn, eis to katantes pheretai kai touto men orrhos eponomazetai; to loipon de to pachy to mellon esesthai tyros, hôs an ou paradechomenôn auto tôn en tois talarois porôn, ou diekpipte katô. kai toinyn, eiper houtô mellei diêtheisthai tôn nephrôn ho tou haimatos orrhos, hapan ep' autous hêkein chrê to haima kai mê to men nai, to d' ou. ||

Pg 90
[Greek text](#)

59 Pôs oun echei to phainomenon ek tês anatomês?

To men heteron meros tês koilês anô pros tèn kardia anapheretai, to loipon d'

epibainei tē rhachei kath' holēs autēs ekteinomenon achri tōn skelōn, hōste to men heteron oud' engys aphikneitai tōn nephron, to loipon de plēsiazēi men, ou mēn eis autous ge kataphyetai. echrēn d', eiper emellen hōs di' êthmōn autōn katharthēsesthai to haima, pan empiptein eis autous kapeita katō men pheresthai to lepton, ischesthai d' anō to pachy. nyni d' ouch houtōs echei; plagioi gar hekaterōthen tēs koilēs phlebos hoi nephroi keintai. oukoun hōs êthmoi diēthousi, pempousēs men ekeinēs, autoi d' oudemian eispheromenoi dynamin, all' helkousi dêlonoti; touto gar eti leipetai.

Pg 92
[Greek text](#)

60 Pōs oun helkousin? ei men, hōs Epikouros oietai tas holkas hapasas gignesthai kata tas tōn atomōn apopalseis te kai periplokas, ameinion ên ontōs eipein autous mēd' helkein holōs; poly gar an houtō ge tōn epi tēs hērakleias lithou mikrō prosthen eirē||menōn ho logos exetazomenos heuretheiē geloioteros; all' hōs Hippokratēs êbouleto. lechthēsetai de saphesteron epi proēkonti tō logō. nyni gar ou touto prokeitai didaskein, all' hōs out' allo ti dynaton eipein aition einai tēs tōn ourōn diakriseōs plēn tēs holkēs tōn nephron outh' houtō gignesthai tēn holkēn, hōs hoi mēdemian oikeian didontes tē physei dynamin oiontai gignesthai.

Toutou gar homologēthentos, hōs estin holōs tis en tois hypo physeōs dioikoumenois dynamis helktikē, lērōdēs nomizoit' an ho peri anadoseōs trophēs allo ti legein epicheirōn.

Pg 94
[Greek text](#)

XVI

Erasistratos d' ouk oid' hopōs heterais men tisi doxais euēthesin anteipe dia makrōn, hyperebē de teleōs tēn Hippokratous, oud' achri tou mnēmoneusai monon autēs, hōs en tois peri kataposeōs epoiēsen, axiōsas. en ekeinois men gar achri tosoutou phainetai mnēmoneuōn, hōs tounom' eipein tēs holkēs monon hōde pōs graphōn;

61 “Holkē men oun tēs koilias oudemia phainetai einai”; peri de tēs || anadoseōs ton logon poioumenos oud' achri syllabēs mias emnēmoneuse tēs Hippokrateiou doxēs. kaitoi g' epērkesen an hēmin, ei kai tout' egrapse monon, hōs Hippokratēs eipōn “Sarkes holkoī kai ek koiliēs kai exōthen” pseudetai; oute gar ek tēs koilias out' exōthen helkein dynantai. ei de kai hoti mētras aitiōmenos arrhōston auchena kakōs eipen “Ou gar dynatai auteēs ho stomachos eirysai tēn gonēn,” ê ei kai ti toiouton allo graphein ho Erasistratos êxiōse, tot' an kai hēmeis pros auton apologoumenoi eipomen;

62 Ô gennaie, mē rhētorikōs hēmōn katatreche chōris apodeixeōs, all' eipe tina katēgorian tou dogmatos, hin' ê peisthōmen soi hōs kalōs exelenchonti ton palaion logon ê metapeisōmen hōs agnoounta. kaitoi ti legō rhētorikōs? mē gar, epeidē tines tōn rhētorōn, ha malist' adynatousi dialyesthai, tauta diagelasantes oud' epicheirousin antilegein, êdē pou touto kai hēmeis hēgōmeth' einai to rhētorikōs; to gar dia logou pithanou esti to || rhētorikōs, to d' aneu logou bōmoloichikon, ou rhētorikon. oukoun oute rhētorikōs oute dialektikōs anteipen ho Erasistratos en tō peri tēs kataposeōs logō. ti gar phēsın? “Holkē men oun tēs koilias oudemia phainetai einai.” palin oun autō par' hēmōn antimartyrōn ho autos logos antiparaballesthō; peristolē men oun tou stomachou oudemia phainetai einai. kai pōs ou phainetai? tach' an isōs eipoi tis tōn ap' autou; to gar aei tōn anōthen autou merōn systellomenōn diastellesthai ta katō pōs ouk esti tēs peristolēs endeiktikon? authis oun hēmeis, kai pōs ou phainetai, phēsomen, hē tēs koilias holkē? to gar aei tōn katōthen merōn tou stomachou diastellomenōn systellesthai ta anō pōs ouk esti tēs holkēs endeiktikon? ei de sōphronēsie pote kai gnoiē to phainomenon touto mēden mallon tēs heteras tōn doxōn hyparchein endeiktikon all' amphoterōn einai koinon, houtōs an êdē deixaimen autō tēn orthēn hodon tēs tou alēthous heureseōs.

Pg 96
[Greek text](#)

63 Alla peri men tēs koilias authis. hē de tēs trophēs anadosis ouden deitai || tēs pros to kenoumenon akolouthias hapax ge tēs helktikēs dynamēōs epi tōn nephron hōmologēmenēs, hēn kaitoi pany saphōs alēthē gignōskōn hyparchein ho Erasistratos out' emnēmoneusen out' anteipen outh' holōs apephēnato, tin' echei doxan hyper tēs tōn ourōn diakriseōs.

Pg 98
[Greek text](#)

64 Ê dia ti proeipōn euthys kat' archas tōn kath' holou logōn, hōs hyper tōn physikōn energeiōn erei, prōton tines t' eisi kai pōs gignontai kai dia tinōn topōn, epi tēs tōn ourōn diakriseōs, hoti men dia nephron, apephēnato, to d' hopōs gignetai parelipe? matēn oun hēmas kai peri tēs pepseōs edidaxen, hopōs gignetai, kai peri tēs tou cholōdous perittōmatos diakriseōs katatribēi. êrkei gar eipein kantautha ta moria, di' hōn gignetai, to d' hopōs paralipein. alla peri men ekeinōn eiche legein, ou monon di' hōn organōn alla kai kath' hontina gignetai tropon, hōsper oimai kai peri tēs anadoseōs; ou gar êrkesen eipein autō monon, hoti dia phlebōn, alla kai pōs epexēlthen, hoti tē pros || to kenoumenon akolouthia; peri de tōn ourōn tēs diakriseōs, hoti men dia nephron gignetai, graphei, to d' hopōs ouketi prostithēsın. oude gar oimai tē pros to kenoumenon akolouthia ên eipein; houtō gar an oudeis hyp' ischourias apethanen oude pote mē dynamenou pleionos epirrhēnai pote para to kenoumenon; allēs gar aitias mēdemias prostetheisēs, alla monēs tēs pros to kenoumenon akolouthias podēgousēs to syneches, ouk enchōrei pleon epirrhēnai

Pg 100
[Greek text](#)

pote tou kenoumenou. all' oud' allên tina prostheinai pithanên aitian eichen, hôs epi tês anadoseôs tèn ekthlipsin tês gastros. all' hautê g' epi tou kata tèn koilên haimatos apôlôlei teleôs, ou tô mêkei monon tês apostaseôs eklytheisa, alla kai tô tèn kardian hyperkeimenên exarpazein autês sphodrôs kath' hekastên diastolên ouk oligon haima.

65 Monê dê tis eti kai pantôn erêmos apeleipeto tôn sophismatôn en tois katô tês koilês hê pros || to kenoumenon akolouthia, dia te tous epi tais ischouriais apothnêskontas apôlôlekuia tèn pithanotêta kai dia tèn tôn nephron thesin ouden hêtton, ei men gar hapan ep' autous ephereto to haima, deontôs an tis hapan ephasken auto kathairesthai. nyni de, ou gar holon alla tosouton autou meros, hoson hai mechri nephron dechontai phlebas, ep' autous erchetai, monon ekeino katharthêsetai. kai to men orrhôdes autou kai lepton hoion di' êthmôn tinôn tôn nephron diadysetai; to d' haimatôdes te kai pachy kata tas phlebas hypomenon empodôn stêsetai tô katopin epirrheonti. palindromein oun auto proteron epi tèn koilên anankaion kai kenas houtôs ergazesthai tas epi tous nephrous iousas phlebas, hai deuteron ouketi parakomiousin ep' autous akatharton haima; kateilêphotos gar autas tou proterou parodos oudemia leleiptai. tis oun hêmin hê dynamis apaxei palin opisô tôn nephron to katharon haima? tis de touto men diadexamenê keleusei palin pros to katô meros ienai tês koilês, heterô d' anôthen epipheromenô prostaxei, prin || epi tous nephrous apelthein, mê pheresthai katô?

Pg 102
[Greek text](#)

Taut' oun hapanta synidôn ho Erasistratos aporiôn mesta kai mian monên doxan euporon heurôn en hapasi tèn tês holkês, out' aporeisthai boulomenos oute tèn Hippokratous ethelôn legein ameinon hypelabe siôpêteon einai peri tou tropou tês diakriseôs.

67 All' ei kakeinos esigêsen, hêmeis ou siôpêsomen; ismen gar, hôs ouk endechetai parelthonta tèn Hippokrateion doxan, eith' heteron ti peri nephron energieas eiponta mê ou katagelaston einai pantapasi. dia tout' Erasistratos men esiôpêsen, Asklêpiadês d' epseusato paraplêsiôs oiketais lalois men ta prosthen tou biou kai polla pollakis enklêmata dialysamenois hypo perittês panourgias, ep' autophôrô de pote kateilêmmenois, eit' ouden exeuriskousi sophisma kapeit' entautha tou men aidêmonesterou siôpôntos, hoion apoplêxia tini kateilêmmeno, tou d' anaischyntoterou kryptontos men eth' hypo malês to zêtoumenon, exomnymenou de kai mêd' heôrakenai pôpote phaskontos. houtô gar toi kai ho Asklêpiadês || epileipontôn auton tôn tês panourgias sophismatôn kai mête tês pros to leptomeres phoras echousês eti chôran entauthoi lêreisthai mêth' hôs hypo tôn nephron gennatai touti to perittôma, kathaper hypo tôn en hêpati porôn hê cholê, dynaton on eiponta mê ou megiston kophlein gelôta, exomnytai te kai pseudetai phanerôs, ou diêkein legôn epi tous nephrous to ouron all' atmoeidôs euthys ek tôn kata tèn koilên merôn eis tèn kystin athroizesthai.

Pg 104
[Greek text](#)

Houtoi men oun tois ep' autophôrô kateilêmmenois oiketais homoiôs ekplagentes ho men esiôpêsen, ho d' anaischyntôs pseudetai.

XVII

68 Tôn de neôterôn hosoi tois toutôn onomasin heautous esemnytan Erasistrateious te kai Asklêpiadeious eponomasantes, homoiôs tois hypo tou beltistou Menandrou kata tas kômôdias eisagomenois oiketais, Daois te tisi kai Getais, ouden hêgoumenois sphisi peprachthai gennaion, ei mê tris exapatêseian ton despotên, houtô kai autoi kata pollên scholên anaischynta sophismata synethesan, hoi men, hina mêd' holôs exelenchtheiê pot' || Asklêpiadês pseudomenos, hoi d', hina kakôs eipôsîn, ha kalôs esiôpêsen Erasistratos.

Alla tôn men Asklêpiadeiôn halis. hoi d' Erasistrateioi legein epicheirountes, hopôs hoi nephroi diêthousi to ouron, hapanta drôsi te kai paschousi kai pantoioi gignontai pithanon exeurein ti zêtountes aition holkês mê deomenon.

Pg 106
[Greek text](#)

Hoi men dê plêsion Erasistratou tois chronois genomenoi ta men anô tôn nephron moria katharon haima lambanein phasi, tô de baros echein to hydatôdes perittôma brithein te kai hyporrhêin katô; diêthoumenon d' entautha kata tous nephrous autous chrêston houtô genomenon hapasi tois katô tôn nephron epipempesthai to haima.

69 Kai mechri ge tinos eudokimêsen hêde hê doxa kai êkmase kai alêthês enomisthê; chronô d' hysteron kai autois tois Erasistrateiois hypoptos ephanê kai teleutôntes apestêsan autês. aiteisthai gar edokoun dyo tauta mête synchôrourmena pros tinos all' oud' apodeichthênai dynamena, prôton men to baros tês orrhôdous hygrotêtos en tê koilê || phlebi gennômenon, hôsper ouk ex archês hyparchon, hopot' ek tês koilias eis hêpar anephereto. ti dê oun ouk euthys en ekeinois tois chôriois hyperrhei katô? pôs d' an tô doxeien eulogôs eirêsthai syntelein eis tèn anadosin hê hydatôdês hygrotês, eiper houtôs esti bareia?

Deuteron d' atopon, hoti kan katô synchôrêthê pheresthai pasa kai mê kat' allo chônion ê tèn koilên phleba, tina tropon eis tous nephrous empeseitai, chalepon, mallon d' adynaton eipein, mêth' en tois katô meresi keimenôn autôn tês phlebos all'

ek tôn plagiôn mêt' emphyomenês eis autous tês koilês all' apophysin tina monon eis hekateron pempousês, hôsper kai eis talla panta moria.

Pg 108
[Greek text](#)

70 Tis oun hê diadexamenê tautên doxa katagnôstheisan? emoi men êlithiôtera makrô phainetai tês proteras. êkmase d' oun kai hautê pote. phasi gar, ei kata tês gês ekchytheiê memigmenon elaion hydati, diaphoron hekateron hodon badieisthai kai rhyêsesthai to men têde, to de têde. thaumaston oun ouden einai phasin, ei to men hydâtôdes hygron eis tous ne||phrous rhei, to d' haima dia tês koilês pheretai katô. kategnôstai oun êdê kai hêde hê doxa. dia ti gar apo tês koilês myriôn ekpephykuiôn phlebôn haima men eis tas allas hapasas, hê d' orrhôdês hygrotês eis tas epi tous nephrous pheromenas ektrepetai? tout' auto to zêtoumenon ouk eirêkasin, alla to gignomenon eipontes monon oiontai tèn aitian apodedôkenai.

71 Palin oun, to triton tô sôtêri, tèn cheiristên hapasôn doxan exeurêmenên nyn hypo Lykou tou Makedonos, eudokimousan de dia to kainon êdê legômen. apephênato gar dê ho Lykos houtos, hôsper ex adytou tinos chrêsmon apophthengomenos, perittôma tês tôn nephron threpseôs einai to ouron. hoti men oun auto to pinomenon hapan ouron gignetai, plên ei ti meta tôn diachôrêmatôn hypêlthen ê eis hidrôtas apechôrêsen ê eis tèn adêlon diapnoên, enargôs endeiknytai to plêthos tôn kath' hekastên hêmeran ouroumenôn. en cheimôni de malista mathein estin epi tôn argountôn men, kôthônizomenôn de, kai malist' ei leptos ho oinos eiê kai porimos. ourousi || gar houtoi dia tacheôn oligou dein, hosonper kai pinousin. hoti de kai ho Erasistratos houtôs egnôskên, hoi to prôton anegnôkotes autou syngamma tôn katholou logôn epistantai. hôsth' ho Lykos out' alêthê phainetai legôn out' Erasistrateia, dêlon d' hês oud' Asklêpiadeia, poly de mallon oud' Hippokrateia. leukô toinyn kata tèn paroimian eoike koraki mêt' autois tois koraxin anamichthênai dynamênô dia tèn chroan mête tais peristerais dia to megethos, all' outi pou toutou g' heneka paropteos; isôs gar ti legei thaumaston, ho mêdeis tôn emprosthen egnô.

Pg 110
[Greek text](#)

72 To men oun hapanta ta trephomena moria poiein ti perittôma synchôroumenon, to de tous nephrous monous, houtô smikra sômata, choas holous tettaras ê kai pleious ischein eniote perittômatos outh' homologoumenon oute logon echon; to gar hekastou tôn meizonôn splanchnôn perittôma pleion anankaion hyparchein. hoion autika to tou pneumonos, eiper analogon tô megethei tou splanchnou gignoito, pollapla||sion estai dêpou tou kata tous nephrous, hôsth' holos men ho thôrax emplêsthêsetai, pniçêsetai d' autika to zôon. all' ei ison phêsei tis gignesthai to kath' hekaston tôn allôn moriôn perittôma, dia poiôn kysteôn ekkrinetai? ei gar hoi nephroi tois kôthônizomenois treis ê tettaras eniote choas poiouci perittômatos, hekastou tôn allôn splanchnôn pollô pleious esontai kai pithou tinos houtô megistou dêêsei tou dexomenou ta pantôn perittômata. kaitoi pollakis, hoson epie tis, oligou dein ourêsen hapan, hês an epi tous nephrous pheromenou tou pomatos hapantos.

Pg 112
[Greek text](#)

73 Eoiken oun ho to triton exapatôn houtos ouden anyein all' euthys gegonenai kataphôros kai menein eti to ex archês aporon Erasistratô te kai tois allois hapasi plên Hippokratous. diatribô d' hekôn en tô topô saphôs eidôs, hoti mêden eipein echei mêdeis allos peri tês tôn nephron energieas, all' anankaion ê tôn mageirôn amathesterous phainesthai mêd' hoti diêtheitai di' autôn to ouron homologountas ê || touto synchôrêasantas mêden et' echein eipein heteron aition tês diakriseôs plên tês holkês.

All' ei mê tôn ourôn hê phora tê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia gignetai, dêlon, hês oud' hê tou haimatos oud' hê tês cholês ê eiper ekeinôn kai toutou; panta gar hêsautôs anankaion epiteleisthai kai kat' auton ton Erasistraton.

Eirêsetai d' epi pleon hyper autôn en tô meta tauta grammati.

B

Pg 114-116
[Greek text](#)

I

74 Hoti men oun anankaion estin ouk Erasistratô monon alla kai tois allois hapasin, hosoi mellousi peri diakriseôs ourôn erein ti chrêston, homologêsai dynamin tin' hyparchein tois nephrois helkousan eis heautous poiôtêta toiautên, hoia en tois ourois esti, dia tou prosthen epidedeiktai grammatos, anamimnêskontôn ham' autô kai touth' hêmôn, hês ouk allôs men eis tèn kystin pheretai ta oura dia tôn nephron, allôs d' eis hapanta tou zôou ta moria to haima, kat' allon de tina tropon hê xanthê cholê diakrinetai. deichtheisês gar enargôs eph' henos || houtinosoun organou tês helktikês te kai epispastikês onomazomenês dynameôs ouden eti chalepon epi ta loipa metapherein autên; ou gar dê tois men nephrois hê physis edôke tina toiautên dynamin, ouchi de ge kai tois to cholôdes hygron helkousin angeiois oude toutois men, ouketi de kai tôn allôn moriôn hekastô. kai mên ei tout' alêthes esti, thaumazein chrê tou Erasistratou pseudeis houtô logous hyper anadoseôs trophês eipontes, hês mêd' Asklêpiadên lathein. kaitoi g' oietai pantos mallon alêthes hyparchein, hês, eiper ek tôn phlebôn aporrhœoi ti, dyoin thateron ê kenos estai topos athroôs ê to

Pg 118
[Greek text](#)

76 syneches epirrhysetai tèn basin anaplêroun tou kenoumenou. all' ho g' Asklēpiadês ou dyoin thateron phêsîn, alla triôn hen ti chrênai legein epi tois kenoumenois angeiois hepesthai ê kenon athroôs topon ê to syneches akolouthêsein ê systalêsesthai to angeion. epi men gar tòn kalamôn kai tòn auliskôn tòn eis to hydôr kathiemenôn alêthes eipein, hoti kenoumenou tou periechomenou kata tèn || eurychôrian autôn aeros ê kenos athroôs estai topos ê akolouthêsei to syneches; epi de tòn phlebôn ouket' enchôrei, dynamenou dê tou chitônos autôn eis heauton synizanein kai dia touto katapiptein eis tèn entos eurychôrian. houtô men dê pseudês hê peri tês pros to kenoumenon akolouthias ouk apodeixis ma Di' eipoim' an all' hypothesis Erasistrateios.

77 Kath' heteron d' au tropon, ei kai alêthês eiê, perittê, tês men koilias enthlibein tais phlepsi dynamenês, hôs autos hypetheto, tòn phlebôn d' au peristellesthai tô enyparchonti kai proôthein auto. ta te gar alla kai plêthos ouk an en tô sômati genoito, tê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia monê tês anadoseôs epiteloumenês. ei men oun hê tês gastros enthlipsis eklyetai proïousa kai mechri pantos adynatos estin exikneisthai kai dia tout' allês tinos dei mêchanês eis tèn pantê phoran tou haimatos, anankaia men hê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia prosexeurêtai; plêthos d' en oudeni tòn meth' hêpar estai || moriôn, ê, eiper ara, peri tèn kardian te kai ton pneumona. monê gar hautê tòn meth' hêpar eis tèn dexian hautês koilian helkei tèn trophên, eita dia tês phlebos tês artêriôdous ekpempêi tô pneumoni; tòn gar allôn ouden oud' autos ho Erasistratos ek kardias bouletai trephesthai dia tèn tòn hymenôn epiphysin. ei de g', hina plêthos genêtai, phylaxomen achri pantos tèn rhômên tês kata tèn koilian enthlipseôs, ouden eti deometha tês pros to kenoumenon akolouthias, malist' ei kai tèn tòn phlebôn synypothoimetha peristolên, hôs au kai tout' autô palin areskei tô Erasistratô.

Pg 120
[Greek text](#)

II

78 Anamnêsteon oun authis auton, kan mê boulêtai, tòn nephron kai lekton, hôs elenchos houtoi phanerôtatos hapantôn tòn apochôrountôn tês holkês; oudeis gar ouden out' eipe pithanon, all' oud' exeurein eiche kat' oudena tropon, hôs emprosthen edeiknymen, heteron aition ourôn diakriseôs, all' anankaion ê mainesthai dokein, ei phêsaimen atmoei||dôs eis tèn kystin ienai to ouron ê aschênonein tês pros to kenoumenon akolouthias mnêmoneuontas, lêrôdous men ousês kapi tou haimatos, adynatou de kai êlithiou pantapasin epi tòn ourôn.

Pg 122
[Greek text](#)

Hen men dê touto sphalma tòn apostantôn tês holkês; heteron de to peri tês kata tèn xanthên cholên diakriseôs. oude gar oud' ekei pararrheontos tou haimatos ta stomata tòn cholêdochôn angeiôn akribôs diakrithêsetai to cholôdes perittôma. kai mê diakrinsthê, phasin, alla synanapheresthê tô haimati pantê tou sômatos. all', ô sophôtatoi, pronoeitêkên tou zôou kai technikên autos ho Erasistratos hypetheto tèn physin. alla kai to cholôdes hygron achrêston einai pantapasi tois zôois ephasken. ou symbainei d' allêlois amphô tauta. pôs gar an eti pronoeisthai tou zôou doxeien epitrepousa synanapheresthai tô haimati mochthêron houtô chymon?

79 Alla tauta men smikra; to de megiston kai saphestaton palin entauth' hamartêma kai dê phrasô. eiper gar di' ouden all' ê hoti pachyteron men esti to haima, leptotera d' hê || xanthê cholê kai ta men tòn phlebôn eurytera stomata, ta de tòn cholêdochôn angeiôn stenotera, dia touth' hê men cholê tois stenoteris angeiois te kai stomasin enarmottei, to d' haima tois euryteris, dêlon, hôs kai to hydatôdes touto kai orrhôdes perittôma tosoutô proteron eisryêsetai tois cholêdochois angeiois, hosô leptoteron esti tês cholês. pôs oun ouk eisrei? hoti pachyteron esti nê Dia to ouron tês cholês; touto gar etolmêse tis eipein tòn kath' hêmas Erasistrateiôn apostas dêlonoti tòn aisthêseôn, hais episteusen epi te tês cholês kai tou haimatos. eite gar hoti mallon hê cholê tou haimatos rhei, dia touto leptoteran autên hêmin esti nomisteon, eith' hoti di' othonês ê rhakous ê tinos êthmou rhaon diexerchetai kai tautês to orrhôdes perittôma, kata tauta ta gnôrismata pachytera tês hydatôdous hygrotêtos kai hautê genêsetai. palin gar oud' entautha logos oudeis estin, hos apodeixei leptoteran tèn cholên tòn orrhôdôn perittômatôn.

Pg 124
[Greek text](#)

80 All' hotan tis anaischyntê periplekôn te kai mêpô katapeptôkenai synchôrôn, || homoiôs estai tois idiôtais tòn palaistôn, hoi katablêthentes hypo tòn palaistikôn kai kata tês gês hyptioi keimenoi tosoutou deousi to ptôma gnôrizein, hôste kai kratousi tòn auchenôn autous tous katabalontas ouk eôntes apallattesthai, kan toutô nikan hypolambanousi.

Pg 126
[Greek text](#)

III

Lêros oun makros hapasa porôn hypothesis eis physikên energeian. ei mê gar dynamis tis symphytos hekastô tòn organôn hypo tês physeôs euthys ex archês dotheiê, diarkein ou dynêsetai ta zôa, mê hoti tosouton arithmon etôn all' oud' hêmêrôn oligistôn; anepitropeuta gar easantes auta kai technês kai pronoias erêma monais tais tòn hylôn oiakizomena rhopais, oudamou dynamêôs oudemias tês men helkousês to prosêkon heautê, tês d' apôthousês to allotrion, tês d' alloiousês te kai

81 prosphyousês to threpson, ouk oid' hopôs ouk an eiêmen katagelastoi peri te tôn physikôn energeiôn dialegomenoi kai poly mallon eti peri tôn psychikôn kai || sympasês ge tês zôês.

Oude gar zên oude diamenein oudenî tôn zôn oud' eis elachiston chronon estai dynaton, ei tosauta kektêmenon en heautô moria kai houtô diapheronta mêth' helktikê tôn oikeiôn chrêsetai dynamei mêth' apokritikê tôn allotriôn mêth' alloiôtikê tôn threpsonôn. kai mên ei tautas echoimen, ouden eti porôn mikrôn ê megalôn ex hypotheseôs anapodeiktou lambanomenôn eis ourou kai cholês diakrisin deometha kai tinos epikairou theseôs, en hô monô sôphronein eoiken ho Erasistratos hapanta kalôs tethênai te kai diaplasthênai ta moria tou sômatos hypo tês physeôs oiomenos.

Pg 128

[Greek text](#)

82 All' ei parakolouthêseien heautô physin onomazonti technikên, euthys men ex archês hapanta kalôs diaplâsan te kai diatheisan tou zôou ta moria, meta de tèn toiautên energeian, hês ouden eleipen, eti proagagousan eis phôs auto syn tisi dynamesin, hôn aneu zên ouk êdynato, kai meta tauta kata brachy prosauxêsasan achri tou prepontos megethous, ouk oida pês hypomenei porôn smikrotêsin || ê megethesin ê tisin allais houtô lêrôdesin hypothesesi physikas energeias epitrepein. hê gar diaplattousa ta moria physis ekeinê kai kata brachy prosauxousa pantôs dêpou di' holôn autôn ektetatai; kai gar hola di' holôn ouk exôthen monon auta diaplattei te kai trephei kai prosauei. Praxitelês men gar ê Pheidias ê tis allos agalmatopoiôs exôthen monon ekosmoun tas hylas, katha kai psauen autôn êdynato, to bathos d' akosmêton kai argon kai atechnon kai apronoêton apelipon, hês an mê dynamenoi katelthein eis auto kai katadynai kai thigein hapantôn tês hylês tôn merôn. hê physis d' ouch houtôs, alla to men ostou meros hapan ostoun apotelei, to de sarkos sarka, to de pimelês pimelên kai tôn allôn hekaston; ouden gar estin apsauston autê meros oud' anexergaston oud' akosmêton. alla ton men kêron ho Pheidias ouk êdynato poiein elephanta kai chryson, all' oude ton chryson kêron; hekaston gar autôn menon, hoion ên ex archês, exôthen monon êmphiesmenon eidos ti kai schêma technikon, agalma teleion || gegonen. hê physis d' oudemias eti phylattei tôn hylôn tèn archaian idean; haima gar an ên houtôs hapanta tou zôou ta moria, to para tês kyousês epirrheon tô spermati, dikên kêrou tinos hylê mia kai monoeidês hypobeblêmenê tô technitê. gignetai d' ex autês ouden tôn tou zôou moriôn out' erythron houtôs outh' hygron. ostoun gar kai artêria kai phleps kai neuron kai chondros kai pimelê kai adên kai hymên kai myelos anaima men, ex haimatos de gegone.

Pg 130

[Greek text](#)

84 Tinos alloiôsantos kai tinos pêxantos kai tinos diaplâsantos edeomên an moi ton Erasistraton auton apokrinasthai. pantôs gar an eipen êtoi tèn physin ê to sperma, tauton men legôn kath' hekateron, diaphorois d' epinoiais hermêneuôn; ho gar ên proteron sperma, touth', hotan arxêtai phyein te kai diaplattein to zôn, physis tis gignetai. kathaper gar ho Pheidias eiche men tas dynameis tês technês kai prin psauen tês hylês, enêrgei d' autais peri tèn hylên—hapasa gar dynamis argei aporoussa tês oikeias hylês—, houtô kai to sperma tas men || dynameis oikothern ekektêto, tas d' energeias ouk ek tês hylês elaben, alla peri tèn hylên epedeixato.

Kai mên ei pollô men epiklyzoito tô haimati to sperma, diaphtheiroit' an; ei d' holôs aporoie pantapasin argoun, ouk an genoito physis. hin' oun mête phtheirêtai kai gignêtai physis anti spermatos, oligon epirrhein anankaion autô tou haimatos, mallon d' ouk oligon legein chrê, alla symmetron tô plêthei tou spermatos. tis oun ho metrôn autou to poson tês epirrhoês? tis ho kôlyôn ienai pleon? tis ho protrepôn, hin' endeesteron mê iê? tina zêtêsomen entautha triton epistatên tou zôou tês geneseôs, hos chorêgêsei tô spermati to symmetron haima? ti an eipen Erasistratos, ei zôn taut' êrôtêthê? to sperma auto dêlonoti; touto gar estin ho technitês ho analogôn tô Pheidia, to d' haima tô kêrô proseoiken.

Pg 132

[Greek text](#)

85 Oukoun prepei ton kêron auton heautô to metron exeuriskein, alla ton Pheidian. helxei dê tosouton haimatos ho technitês eis heauton, hoposou deitai. all' en||tautha chrê prosechein êdê ton noun kai skopein, mê pês lathômen tô spermati logismon tina kai noun charisamenoi; houtô gar an oute sperma poiêsaimen oute physin all' êdê zôn auto. kai mên ei phylaxomen amphotera, tèn th' holkên tou symmetrou kai to chôris logismou, dynamin tina, kathaper hê lithos helktikên eiche tou sidêrou, kai tô spermati phêsomen hyparchein haimatos epispastikên. ênankasthêmen oun palin kantautha, kathaper êdê pollakis emprosthen, helktikên tina dynamin homologêsai kata to sperma.

86 Ti d' ên to sperma? hê archê tou zôou dêlonoti hê drastikê; hê gar hylikê to katamênion estin. eit' autês tês archês prôtê tautê tê dynamei chrômenês, hina genêtai tôn hyp' autês ti dedêmiourgêmenôn, amoiron einai tês oikeias dynamêôs ouk endechetai. pês oun Erasistratos autên ouk oiden, ei dê prôtê men hautê tou spermatos energeia to symmetron haimatos epispasthai pros heauto? symmetron d' an eiê to lepton houtô kai atmôdes, hôst' euthys eis pan morion helkomenon tou spermatos drosoidôs mêdamou tèn || heautou paremphainein idean. houtô gar autou kai kratêsei rhadiôs to sperma kai tacheôs exomoiôsei kai trophên heautô poiêsetai kapeit' oimai deuteron epispasetai kai triton, hês onkon heautô kai plêthos axiologon ergasasthai traphenti. kai mên êdê kai hê alloiôtikê dynamis exeurêtai mêth' autê pros Erasistratou gegrammenê. tritê d' an hê diaplastikê phaneiê, kath' hên prôton men hoion epipagon tina lepton hymena peritithêsîn heautô to sperma, ton hyph'

Pg 134

[Greek text](#)

Hippokratous epi tês hektaias gonês, hên ekpesein elege tês mousourgou, tô tôn ôn eikasthenta chitôni; meta de touton êdê kai tall', hosa pros ekeinou legetai dia tou peri physios paidiou syngrammatos.

87 All' ei tôn diaplasthentôn hekaston houtô meineie smikron, hôs ex archês egeneto, ti an eiê pleon? auxanesthai toinyn auta chrê. pôs oun auxêthêsetai? pantê diateinomena th' hama kai trephomena. kai moi tôn emprosthen eirêmenôn epi tês kysteôs, hên hoi paides emphysôntes etribon, anamnêstheis mathêsê mallon || kak tôn nyn rhêthêsomenôn.

Pg 136
[Greek text](#)

Ennoêson gar dê tèn kardian houtô men mikran einai kat' archas, hôs kenchrou mêden diapherein ê, ei boulei, kyamou, kai zêtêson, hopôs an allôs hautê genoito megalê chôris tou pantê diateinomenên trephesthai di' holês heautês, hôs oligô prosthen edeiknyto to sperma trephomenon. all' oude tout' Erasistratos oiden ho tèn technên tês physeôs hymnôn, all' houtôs auxanesthai ta zôa nomizei kathaper tina krêseran ê seiran ê sakkon ê talaron, hôn hekastô kata to peras epiplekomenôn homoiôn heterôn tois ex archês auta syntitheisin hê prosthesis gignetai.

88 Alla touto g' ouk auxêsis estin alla genesis, ô sophôtate; gignetai gar ho thylakos eti kai ho sakkos kai thoimation kai hê oikia kai to ploion kai tôn allôn hekaston, hotan mêdepô to prosêkon eidos, hou charin hypo tou technitou dêmiourgeitai, sympeplêrômenon ê. pot' oun auxanetai? hotan êdê teleios ôn ho talaros, hôs echein pythmenâ te tina kai stoma kai hoion gastera kai ta toutôn metaxy, meizôn hapasi toutois genêtai. kai pôs || estai touto? phêsei tis. pôs d' allôs ê ei zôn exaiphnês ê phyton ho talaros hêmin genoito? monôn gar tôn zôntôn hê auxêsis. sy d' isôs oiei tèn oikian oikodomoumenên auxanesthai kai ton talaron plekomenon kai thoimation hypheinomenon. all' ouch hêd' echei; tou men gar êdê sympeplêrômenou kata to eidos hê auxêsis, tou d' eti gignomenou hê eis to eidos hodos ouk auxêsis alla genesis onomazetai; auxanetai men gar to on, gignetai de to ouk on.

Pg 138
[Greek text](#)

IV

89 Kai taut' Erasistratos ouk oiden, hon ouden lanthanei, eiper holôs alêtheousin hoi ap' autou phaskontes hômilêkenai tois ek tou peripatou philosophois auton. achri men oun tou tèn physin hymnein hôs technikên kagô gnôrizô ta tou peripatou dogmata, tôn d' allôn ouden oud' engys. ei gar tis homilêseie tois Aristotelous kai Theophrastou grammasi, tês Hippokratous an auta doxeie physiologias hypomnêmata synkeisthai, to thermon kai to psychron || kai to xêron kai to hygron eis allêla drônta kai paschonta kai toutôn autôn drastikôtaton men to thermon, deuteron de tê dynamei to psychron Hippokratous tauta sympanta prôtou, deuteron d' Aristotelous eipontos. trephesthai de di' holôn hautôn ta trephomena kai kerannysthai di' holôn ta kerannymena kai alloiousthai di' holôn ta alloiomena, kai tauth' Hippokrateia th' hama kai Aristoteleia. kai tèn pepsin alloiôsin tin' hyparchein kai metabolên tou trephontos eis tèn oikeian tou trephomenou poiôtêta, tèn d' exaimatôsin alloiôsin einai kai tèn threpsin hêsautôs kai tèn auxêsin ek tês pantê diataseôs kai threpseôs gignesthai, tèn d' alloiôsin hypo tou thermou malista synteleisthai kai dia touto kai tèn pepsin kai tèn threpsin kai tèn tôn chymôn hapantôn genesin, êdê de kai tois perittômâsi tas poiôtêtas hypo tês emphytou thermasias engignesthai, tauta 90 sympanta kai pros toutois hetera polla ta te tôn proeirêmenôn dynamôn kai ta || tôn nosêmatôn tês geneoseôs kai ta tôn iamatôn tês heureseôs Hippokratês men prôtos hapantôn hôn ismen orthôs eipen, Aristotelês de deuteros orthôs exêgêsato. kai mên ei tauta sympanta tois ek tou peripatou dokei, kathaper oun dokei, mêden d' autôn areскеi tô Erasistratô, ti pote bouletai tois Erasistrateiois hê pros tous philosophous ekeinous tou tês haireseôs autôn hêgemonos homilia? thaumazousi men gar auton hôs theon kai pant' alêtheuein nomizousin. ei d' houtôs echei tauta, pampoly dêpou tês alêtheias esphalthai chrê nomizein tous ek tou peripatou philosophous, hois mêden hôn Erasistratos hypelambanen areскеi. kai mên hêsper tin' eugeneian autô tês physiologias tèn pros tous andras ekeinous synousian ekporizousi.

Pg 140
[Greek text](#)

91 Palin oun anastrepsômen ton logon heterôs ê hôs oligô prosthen etychomen eipontes. eiper gar hoi ek tou peripatou kalôs ephysiologêsan, ouden an eiê lêrôdêsteron Erasistratou kai didômi tois Erasistrateiois autois tèn hairesin; ê gar ton proteron logon ê touton || prosêsontai. legei d' ho men proteros ouden orthôs egnôkenai peri physeôs tous peripatêtikous, ho de deuteros Erasistraton. emon men oun hypomnêsai tôn dogmatôn tèn machên, ekeinôn d' hê hairesis.

Pg 142
[Greek text](#)

All' ouk an apostaien tou thaumazein Erasistraton; oukoun siôpatôsan peri tôn ek tou peripatou philosophôn. pampollôn gar ontôn dogmatôn physikôn peri te genesin kai phthoran tôn zôn kai hygieian kai nosous kai tas therapeias autôn hen monon heurethêsetai tauton Erasistratô kakeinois tois andrasi, to tinos heneka panta poiein tèn physin kai matên mêden.

Alla kai auto touto mechri logou koinon, ergô de myriakis Erasistratos auto diaphtheirei; matên men gar ho splên egeneto, matên de to epiploon, matên d' hai eis tous nephrous artêriai kataphyomenai, schedon hapasôn tôn apo tês megalês artêrias apoblastanousôn ousai megistai, matên d' alla myria kata ge ton Erasistrateion logon;

92 haper ei men oud' holôs gignôskei, brachei mageirou sophôteros estin en tais anatomais, ei d' eidôs ou legei tèn chreian autôn, oietai || dêlonoti paraplêsiôs tô splênî matên auta gegonenai. kaitoi ti taut' epexerchomai tês peri chreias moriôn pragmateias onta mellousês hêmin idia perainesthai?

Palin oun analabômen ton auton logon eipontes te ti brachy pros tous Erasistrateious eti tòn ephexês echômetha. dokousi gar moi mêden anegnôkenai tòn Aristotelous houtoi syngrammatôn, all' allôn akouontes, hôs deinos ên peri physin ho anthrôpos kai hôs hoi apo tês stoas kat' ichnê tês ekeinou physiologias badizousin, eith' heurontes hen ti tòn peripheromenôn dogmatôn koinon autô pros Erasistraton anaplasai tina synousian autou pros ekeinous tous andras. all' hoti men tês Aristotelous physiologias ouden Erasistratô metestin, ho katalogos tòn proeirêmenôn endeiknytai dogmatôn, ha prôtou men Hippokratous ên, deuterou d' Aristotelous, tritôn de tòn Stôikôn, henos monou metatithemenou tou tas poiôtêtas einai sômata.

Pg 144
[Greek text](#)

93 Tacha d' an tês logikês heneka theôrias hêmilêkenai phaien ton Erasistraton tois ek tou peripatou philosophois, ouk eidotes, hôs ekeinoi men pseu||deis kai aperantous ouk egrapsan logous, ta d' Erasistrateia biblia pampollous echei tous toioutous.

Tach' an oun êdê tis thaumazoi kai diaporoiê, ti pathôn ho Erasistratos eis tosouton tòn Hippokratous dogmatôn apetrapeto kai dia ti tòn en hêpati porôn tòn cholêdochôn, halis gar êdê nephron, aphelomenos tèn helktikên dynamin epikairon aitiatai thesin kai stomatôn stenotêta kai chôran tina koinên, eis hên paragousi men hai apo tòn pylôn to akatharton haima, metalambanousi de proteroi men hoi poroi tèn cholên, deuterai d' hai apo tês koilês phlebos to katharon haima. pros gar tô mêden an blabênai tèn holkên eipôn allôn myriôn emellen amphisbêtoumenôn apallaxesthai logôn.

Pg 146
[Greek text](#)

V

94 Hôs nyn ge polemôs ou smikrôs esti tois Erasistrateiois ou pros tous allous monon alla kai pros allêlous, ouk echousin, hopôs exêgêsontai tèn ek tou prôtou tòn katholou logôn lexin, en hê phêsîn; "Eis to || auto d' anestomômenôn heterôn dyo angeiôn tòn t' epi tèn cholêdochon teinontôn kai tòn epi tèn koilên phleba symbainei tês anapheromenês ek tês koilias trophês ta enarmozonta hekaterois tòn stomatôn eis hekatera tòn angeiôn metalambanesthai kai ta men epi tèn cholêdochon pheresthai, ta d' epi tèn koilên phleba peraiousthai." to gar "eis to auto anestomômenôn," ho kat' archas tês lexeôs gegraptai, ti pote chrê noêsai, chalepon eipein. êtoi gar houtôs eis tauton, hôste tô tês en tois simois phlebos perati synaptein dyo hetera perata, to t' en tois kyrtois kai to tou cholêdochou porou, ê, ei mê houtô, chôran tina koinên epinoêsai chrê tòn triôn angeiôn hoion dexamenên tina, plêroumenên men hypo tês katô phlebos, ekkenoumenên d' eis te tous cholêdochous porous kai tas tês koilês aposchidas; kath' hekateran de tòn exêgêsôn atopa polla, peri hôn ei pantôn legoimi, lathoim' an emauton exêgêsais Erasistratou graphôn, ouch, hoper ex archês prouthemên, perainôn. koinon d' amphoterai tais exêgêsésin atopon to mê || kathairesthai pan to haima. chrê gar hôs eis êthmon tina to cholêdochon angeion empiptein auto, ou parerchesthai kai pararrhein ôkeôs eis to meizon stoma tê rhymê tês anadoseôs pheromenon.

Pg 148
[Greek text](#)

95 Ar' oun en toutois monon aporiais aphyktois ho Erasistratou logos enechetai mê boulêthentos chrêsasthai tais helktikais dynamésin eis mêden, ê sphodrotata men en toutois kai saphôs houtôs, hôs an mêde paida lathein?

VI

96 Ei d' episkopoito tis epimelôs, oud' ho peri threpseôs autou logos, hon en tô deuterô tòn katholou logôn diexerchetai, tas autas aporias ekpheugei. tê gar pros to kenoumenon akolouthia sunchôrêthentos henos lêmmatos, hôs prosthen edeiknymen, eperaine ti peri phlebôn monôn kai tou kat' autas haimatos. ekreontos gar tinos kata ta stomat' autôn kai diaphoroumenou kai mêt' athroôs topou kenou dynamenou genesthai mête tòn phlebôn sympesein, touto gar ên to paraleipomenon, anankaion ên hepesthai to syneches anaplêroun tou kenou||menou tèn basin. hai men dê phlebes hêmin houtô threpsontai tou periechomenou kat' autas haimatos apolauousai; ta de neura pôs? ou gar dê kan toutois estin haima. procheiron men gar ên eipein, helkonta para tòn phlebôn; all' ou bouletai. ti pot' oun kantautha epitechnatai? phlebas echein en heatô kai artêrias to neuron hôsper tina seiran ek triôn himantôn diapherontôn tê physei peplegmenên. ôêthê gar ek tautês tês hypotheseôs ekpheuxesthai tô logô tèn holkên; ou gar an eti deêsesthai to neuron en heatô periechon haimatos angeion epirrhytou tinos exôthen ek tês parakeimenês phlebos tês alêthinês haimatos heterou, all' hikanon autô pros tèn threpsin esesthai to katepseusmenon angeion ekeino to logô theôrêton.

Pg 150
[Greek text](#)

Alla kantautha palin auton homoiâ tis aporia diedexato. touti gar to smikron angeion heatou men threpsei, to parakeimenon mentoi neuron ekeino to haploun ê tèn artêrian ouch hoion t' estai trephein aneu tou symphyton tin' hyparchein autois holkên tês trophês. || tê men gar pros to kenoumenon akolouthia pôs an eti dynaito

97 tèn trophên epispasthai to haploun neuron, hôsper hai phlebes hai synthetoi? koilotês men gar tis estin en autô kat' auton, all' ouch haimatos hautê g' alla pneumatou psychikou mestê. deometha d' hêmeis ouk eis tèn koilotêta tautên eisagein tô logô tèn trophên all' eis to periechon autên angeion, eit' oun trephesthai monon eite kai auxesthai deoito. pôs oun eisaxomen? houtô gar esti smikron ekeino to haploun angeion kai mentoi kai tòn allôn hekateron, hôst', ei tê leptotatê belonê nyxeias ti meros, hama diairêseis ta tria. topos oun aisthêtos athroôs kenos ouk an pot' en autô genoito; logô de theôrêtos topos kenoumenos ouk ên anankastikos tês tou synechous akolouthias.

Pg 152
[Greek text](#)

98 Êboulomên d' au palin moi kantautha ton Erasistraton auton apokrinasthai peri tou stoicheiôdous ekeinou neurou tou smikrou, poteron hen ti kai syneches akribôs estin ê ek pollôn kai smikrôn sômatôn, hôn Epikouros kai Leukippos kai Dêmokritos hypethento, syn||keitai. kai gar kai peri toutou tous Erasistrateious horô diapheromenous. hoi men gar hen ti kai syneches auto nomizousin ê ouk an haploun eirêsthai pros autou phasi; tines de kai touto dialyein eis hetera stoicheiôdê tolmôsin. all' ei men hen ti kai syneches esti, to kenoumenon ex autou kata tèn adêlon hypo tòn iatrôn onomazomenên diapnoên oudemian en heautô kataleipsei chôran kenên. houtô gar ouch hen alla polla genêsetai, dieirgomena dêpou tais kenais chôrais. ei d' ek pollôn synkeitai, tê kêpaia kata tèn paroimian pros Asklepiadên apechôrêsamen anarma tina stoicheia tithemenoi. palin oun atechnos hêmin hê physis legesthê; tois gar toioutois stoicheiois ex anankês touth' hepetai.

Pg 154
[Greek text](#)

99 Dio dê moi kai dokousin amathôs pany tèn eis ta toiauta stoicheia tòn haplôn angeiôn eisagein dialysin enioi tòn Erasistrateiôn. emoi goun ouden diapherei. kath' hekaterous gar atopos ho tês threpseôs estai logos, ekeinois tois haplois angeiois tois smikrois tois syntitheisi ta megala || te kai aisthêta neura kata men tous synechê phylattontas auta mê dynamenês genesthai tês pros to kenoumenon akolouthias, hoti mêden en tô synechei gignetai kenon, kan aporrhê ti; synerchetai gar pros allêla ta kataleipomena moria, kathaper epi tou hydatos horatai, kai palin hen gignetai panta tèn chôran tou diaphorêthentos auta katalambanonta; kata de tous heterous, hoti tòn stoicheiôn ekeinôn ouden deitai tês pros to kenoumenon akolouthias. epi gar tòn aisthêtôn monôn, ouk epi tòn logô theôrêtôn echei dynamin, hês autos ho Erasistratos homologei diarrhêdên, ou peri tou toioutou kenou phaskôn hekastote poieisthai ton logon, ho kata brachy parespartai tois sômasin, alla peri tou saphous kai aisthêtou kai athrou kai megalou kai enargous kai hopôs an allôs onomazein ethelês. Erasistratos men gar autos aisthêton athroôs ou phêsi dynasthai genesthai kenon; egô d' ek periousias euporêsas onomatôn tauton dêloun en ge tô nyn prokeimenô logô dynamenôn kai talla prosethêka.

Pg 156
[Greek text](#)

100 Kallion oun moi dokei kai || hêmas ti syneisenenkasthai tois Erasistrateiois, epeidê kata touto gegonamen, kai symbouleusai tois to prôton ekeino kai haploun hyp' Erasistratou kaloumenon angeion eis heter' atta sômata stoicheiôdê dialyousin apostênai tês hypolêpseôs, hês pros tô mêden echein pleon eti kai diapheromenois Erasistratô. hoti men oun ouden echei pleon, epidedeiktai saphôs; oude gar êdynêthê diaphygein tèn peri tês threpseôs aporian hê hypothesis; hoti d' oud' Erasistratô symphônos estin, ho ekeinos haploun kai prôton onomazei, syntheton apophainousa, kai tèn tês physeôs technên anairousa, prodêlon kai tout' einai moi dokei. ei mê gar kan tois haplois toutois henôsin tina tês ousias apoleipsomen, all' eis anarma kai amerista katabêsometha stoicheia, pantapasin anairêsomen tês physeôs tèn technên, hôsper kai pantes hoi ek tautês hormômenoi tês hypotheseôs iatroi kai philosophoi.

101 deuthera gar tòn tou zôou moriôn kata tèn toiautên hypothesisin hê physis, ou prôtê gignetai. diaplattein de || kai dêmiourgein ou tou deuterou gegonotos, alla tou proÿparchontos estin; hôst' anankaion estin euthys ek spermatôn hypothesthai tas dynameis tês physeôs, hais diaplattei te kai auxanei kai trephei to zôon; all' ekeinôn tòn sômatôn tòn anarmôn kai amerôn ouden en heautô diaplastikên echei dynamin ê auxêtikên ê threptikên ê holôs technikên; apathes gar kai ametablêton hypokeitai. tòn d' eirêmenôn ouden aneu metabolês kai alloiôseôs kai tês di' holôn kraseôs gignetai, kathaper kai dia tòn emprosthen enedeixametha. kai dia tautên tèn anankên ouk echontes, hopôs ta akoloutha tois stoicheiois, hois hypethento, phylattoien, hoi apo tòn toioutôn haireseôn hapantes atechnon ênakasthêsan apophênasthai tèn physin. kaitoi tauta g' ou par' hêmôn echrên manthanein tous Erasistrateious, alla par' autôn tòn philosophôn, hois malista dokei prôton episkopeisthai ta stoicheia tòn ontôn hapantôn.

Pg 158
[Greek text](#)

102 Oukoun oud' Erasistraton an tis orthôs achri tosautês amathias nomizoi proêkein, hês mêde tautên gnôrisai dynêthênai tèn akolou||thian, all' hama men hypothesthai technikên tèn physin, hama d' eis apathê kai anarma kai ametablêta stoicheia katathrausai tèn ousian. kai mên ei dôsei tin' en tois stoicheiois alloiôsin te kai metabolên kai henôsin kai synecheian, hen asyntheton autô to haploun angeion ekeino, kathaper kai autos onomazei, genêsetai. all' hê men haplê phleps ex hautês traphêsetai, to neuron de kai hê artêria para tês plebos. pôs kai tina tropon? en toutô gar dê kai prosthen genomenoî tô logô tês tòn Erasistrateiôn diaphônias emnêmonousamen, epedeixamen de kai kath' hekaterous men aporon einai tèn tòn haplôn ekeinôn angeiôn threpsin, alla kai krinai tèn machên autôn ouk ôknêsamen kai timêsai ton Erasistraton eis tèn beltiona metastêsantes hairetin.

Pg 160
[Greek text](#)

Authis oun epi tèn hen haploun hênômenon heautô pantê to stoicheiôdes ekeino neuron hypotithemenên hairesin ho logos metabas episkopeisthō, pôs traphêsetai; to gar heurethen entautha koinon an êdê kai tês Hippokratous hairesêôs genoito.

103 Kallion d' an moi dokô to zêtou||menon epi tòn nenosêkotôn kai sphodra kataleptysmenôn basanisthênai. panta gar toutois enargôs phainetai ta moria tou sômatos atrophâ kai lepta kai pollês prosthêkês te kai anathrepseôs deomena. kai toinyn kai to neuron touto to aisthêton, eph' houper ex archês epoiêsamên ton logon, ischnon men hikanôs gegone, deitai de threpseôs. echei d' en heautô merê pampolla men ekeina ta prôta kai aorata neura ta smikra kai tinas artêrias haplas oligas kai phlebas homoiôs. hapant' oun autou ta neura ta stoicheiôdê kataleptyntai dêlonoti kai auta, ê, ei mêd' ekeina, oude to holon. kai toinyn kai threpseôs ou to men holon deitai neuron, hekaston d' ekeinôn ou deitai. kai mên ei deitai men anathrepseôs, ouden d' hê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia boêthein autois dynatai dia te tas emprosthen eirêmenas aporias kai dia tèn hypoguion ischnotêta, kathaper deixô, zêtêteon hêmin estin heteran aitian threpseôs.

Pg 162
[Greek text](#)

104 Pôs oun hê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia trephein adynatos esti ton houtô diakeimenon? hoti tosouton akolouthein || anankazei tòn synechôn, hoson aporrhêi. touto d' epi men tòn euektountôn hikanon estin eis tèn threpstin, isa gar ep' autôn einai chrê tois aporrhêousi ta prostithemena; epi de tòn eschatôs ischnôn kai pollês anathrepseôs deomenôn ei mê pollaplasion eiê to prostithemenon tou kenoumenou, tèn ex archês hexin analabein ouk an pote dynainto. dêlon oun, hôs helkein auta deêsei tosoutô pleion, hosô kai deitai pleionos. Erasistratos de kantautha proteron poiêsas to deuteron ouk oid' hopôs ouk aisthanetai. dioti gar, phêsi, pollê prosthesis eis anathrepstin gignetai tois nenosêkosi, dia touto kai hê pros tautên akolouthia pollê. pôs d' an pollê prosthesis genoito mê proêgoumenês anadoseôs dapsilous? ei de tèn dia tòn phlebôn phoran tês trophês anadosin kalei, tèn d' eis hekaston tòn haplôn kai aoratôn ekeinôn neurôn kai artêriôn metalêpsin ouk anadosin alla diadosin, hôs tines onomazein êxiôsan, eita || tèn dia tòn phlebôn monê tê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia phêsi gignesthai, tèn eis ta logô theôrêta metalêpsin hêmin exêgêsasthō. hoti men gar ouket' epi toutôn hê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia legesthai dynatai kai malist' epi tòn eschatôs ischnôn, apodedeiktai. ti de phêsin ep' autôn en tô deuterô tòn katholou logôn ho Erasistratos, axion epakousai tês lexeôs; "Tois d' eschatois te kai haplois, leptois te kai stenois ousin, ek tòn parakeimenôn angeiôn hê prosthesis symbainei eis ta kenômata tòn apenechthentôn kata ta plagia tòn angeiôn helkomenês tês trophês kai katachôrizomenês." ek tautês tês lexeôs prôton men to kata ta plagia prosiemai te kai apodechomai; kata men gar auto to stoma to haploun neuron ouk an dynaito dechomenon tèn trophên houtôs eis holon heauto dianemein; anakeitai gar ekeino tô psychikô pneumati; kata de to plagion ek tês parakeimenês phlebos tês haplês enchôrei labein auto. deuteron d' apodechomai tòn ek tês Erasistratou lexeôs onomatôn to gegrammenon ephexês tô kata ta plagia.

105 || ti gar phêsi? "Kata ta plagia tòn angeiôn helkomenês tês trophês." hoti men oun helketai, kai hêmeis homologoumen, hoti d' ou tê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia, dedeiktai prosthen.

Pg 164
[Greek text](#)

VII

Exeurômen oun koinê, pôs helketai. pôs d' allôs ê hôs ho sidêros hypo tês hêrakleias lithou dynamin echousês helktikên toiautês poiôtêtos? all' ei tèn men archên tês anadoseôs hê tês koilias enthlipsis parechetai, tèn de meta tauta phoran hapasan hai te phlebes peristellomenai kai proôthousai kai tòn trephomenôn hekaston episômenon eis heauto, tês pros to kenoumenon akolouthias apostantes, hôs ou prepousês andri technikên hypothemenô tèn physin, houtôs an êdê kai tèn antilogian eiêmen pepheugotes tèn Asklēpiadou mê dynamenoi ge lyein autên. to gar eis tèn apodeixin paralambanomenon lêmma to diezeugmenon ouk ek dyoin all' ek triôn esti kata ge tèn alêtheian diezeugmenon. ei men oun hôs ek dyoin autô chrê||saimetha, pseudos estai ti tòn eis tèn apodeixin pareilêmmenôn; ei d' hôs ek triôn, aperantos ho logos genêsetai.

Pg 166
[Greek text](#)

VIII

Kai taut' ouk echrên agnoein ton Erasistraton, eiper kan onar pote tois ek tou peripatou synetychen, hôsper oun oude ta peri tês geneseôs tòn chymôn, hyper hôn ouden echôn eipein oude mechri tou metriou pithanon oietai parakrouesthai skêptomenos, hôs oude chrêsimos holôs estin hê tòn toioutôn episkepsis. eit', ô pros theôn, hopôs men ta sitia kata tèn gastera pettetai chrêsimon epistasthai, pôs d' en tais phlepsin hê cholê gignetai, peritton? kai tês kenôseôs ara phrontistêton autês monês, amelêteon de tês geneseôs? hôsper ouk ameinon hyparchon makrô to kôlyein euthys ex archês gennasthai pleiona tou pragmat' echein ekkenountas. thaumaston de kai to diaporein, eit' en tô sômati tèn genesin autês hypotheteon eit' euthys exôthen en tois sitiois periechesthai phateon. ei gar dê touto kalôs êporêtai, ti ouchi kai peri tou haimatos episkepsometha, poteron en tô sômati || lambanei tèn genesin ê tois sitiois parespartai, kathaper hoi tas homoiomereias hypotithemenoi phasi? kai

Pg 168
[Greek text](#)

mên pollô g' ên chrêsîmôteron zêteisthai, poia tôn sitiôn homologeî tês haimatôseôs energeia kai poia diapheretai, tou zêtein, tina men tês gastros energeia nikatai rhadiôs, tina d' antibainei kai machetai. toutôn men gar hê eklexis eis pepsin monên, ekeinôn d' eis haimatos chrêstou diapherei genesin. oude gar ison estin ê mê kalôs en tês gastri chylôthênai tèn trophên ê mê chrêston haima gennêthênai. pôs d' ouk aideitai tas men tês pepseôs apotychieis diaroumenos, hôs pollai t' eisi kai kata pollas gignontai prophaseis, hyper de tôn tês haimatôseôs sphalmatôn oud' achri rhêmatos henos oud' achri syllabês mias phthenxamenos? kai mên heurisketai ge kai pachy kai lepton en tais phlepsin haima kai tois men erythroteron, tois de xanthoteron, tois de melanteron, tois de phlegmatôdesteron. ei d' hoti kai dysôdes ouch hena tropon all' en pollais pany diaphorais arrhêtois men logô, sa||phestatais d' aisthêsesi phainetai gignomenon, eideiê tis, ouk an oimai metriôs eti katagnôsesthai tês Erasistratou rhathymias auton houtô g' anankaian eis ta erga tês technês theôrian paralipontos.

Pg 170
[Greek text](#)

Enargê gar dê kai ta peri tôn hyderôn hamartêmata tês rhathymia tautê kata logon êkolouthêkota. to te gar tês stenochôria tôn hodôn kôlyesthai nomizein prosô tou hêpatos ienai to haima kai mêdepot' an allôs hyderon dynasthai systênai pôs ouk eschatên endeiknytai rhathymian? to te mê dia ton splêna mêde di' allo ti morion, all' aei dia ton en tô hêpati skirrhon hyderon oiesthai gignesthai teleôs argou tèn dianoiân anthrôpou kai mêdeni tôn hosêmerai gignomenôn parakolouthountos. epi men ge chroniais haimorrhôisin epischetheisais ê dia kenôsin ametron eis psyxin eschatên agagousais ton anthrôpon ouch hapax oude dis alla pollakis êdê tetheametha systantas hyderous, hôsper ge kai gynaixin hê te tês eph' hekastô mêni katharseôs apôleia pantelês kai ametros kenôsis, hotan haimorrhagêsosi poth' hai mêtrai sphodrôs, epekalesanto pol||lakis hyderon kai tisin autôn kai ho gynaikeios onomazomenos rhous eis tout' eteleutêse to pathos, hina tous apo tôn keneônôn archomenous ê allou tinos tôn epikairôn moriôn hyderous paralipô, saphôs men kai autous exelenchontas tèn Erasistrateion hypolêpsin, all' ouch houtôs enargôs hôs hoi dia katapsyxin sphodran tês holês hexeôs apoteloumenoi. prôtê gar hautê geneseôs hyderôn aitia dia tèn apotychieian tês haimatôseôs gignomenê tropon homoiotaton tais epi tês tôn sitiôn aepsia diarrhoiais. ou mên eskirrhôtai ge kata tous toioutous hyderous oud' allo ti splanchnon oude to hêpar.

Pg 172
[Greek text](#)

All' Erasistratos ho sophos hyperidôn kai kataphronêsas, hôn outh' Hippokratês oute Dioklês oute Praxagoras oute Philistiôn all' oude tôn aristôn philosophôn oudeis katephronêsen oute Platôn out' Aristotelês oute Theophrastos, holas energeias hyperbainei kathaper ti smikron kai to tychon tês technês paralipôn meros oud' anteipein axiôsas, eit' orthôs eite kai mê || sympantes houtoi thermô kai psychrô kai xêrô kai hydrô, tois men hôs drôsi, tois d' hôs paschousi, ta kata to sôma tôn zôn hapantôn dioikeisthai phasi kai hôs to thermon en autois eis te tas allas energeias kai malist' eis tèn tôn chymôn genesin to pleiston dynatai. alla to men mê peithesthai tosoutois te kai têlikoutois andrasi kai pleon autôn oiesthai ti gignôskein anemesêton, to de mêt' antilogias axiôsai mête mnêmês houtôs endoxon dogma thaumastên tina tèn hyperopsian endeiknytai.

Kai mên smikrotatos esti tèn gnômên kai tapeinos eschatôs en hapasais tais antilogiais en men tois peri tês pepseôs logois tois sêpesthai ta sitia nomizousi philotimôs antilegôn, en de tois peri tês anadoseôs tois dia tèn parathesin tôn artêriôn anadidosthai to dia tôn phlebôn haima nomizousin, en de tois peri tês anapnoês tois periôtheisthai ton aera paskousin. ouk ôknêse d' oude tois atmoeidôs eis tèn kystin ienai ta oura nomizousin anteipein oude tois eis || ton pneumona pheresthai to poton. houtôs en hapasi tas cheiristas epilegomenos doxas agalletai diatribôn epi pleon en tais antilogiais; epi de tês tou haimatos geneseôs ouden atimoterâs ousês tês en tês gastri chylôseôs tôn sitiôn out' anteipein tini tôn presbyterôn êxiôsen out' autos eisêgêsasthai tin' heteran gnômên etolmêsen, ho peri pasôn tôn physikôn energeiôn en archê tôn katholou logôn hyposchomenos erein, hopôs te gignontai kai di' hontinôn tou zôou moriôn. ê tês men pettein ta sitia pephykuias dynamêôs arrhôtousês apeptêsei to zôn, tês d' haimatousês ta pephtenta ouden estai pathêma to parapan, all' adamantinê tis hêmin hautê monê kai apathês estin? ê allo ti tês arrhôtias autês ekgonon hyperxei kai ouch hyderos? dêlos oun enargôs estin ho Erasistratos ex hôn en men tois allois oude tais phaulotatais doxais antilegein ôknêsen, entauthoi d' out' anteipein tois prosthen out' autos eipein ti kainon etolmêse, to sphalma tês heautou gnôrizôn haireseôs.

Pg 174
[Greek text](#)

Ti gar an kai legein eschen hyper haimatos || anthrôpos eis mêden tô symphytô thermô chrômenos? ti de peri xanthês cholês ê melainês ê phlegmatos? hoti nê Dia dynaton estin anamemigmenên tois sitiois euthys exôthen paragignesthai tèn cholên. legei goun hôde pôs autois onomasi; "Poteron d' en tês peri tèn koilian katergasia tês trophês gennatai toiautê hygrasia ê memigmenê tois exôthen prosperomenois paragignetai, ouden chrêsimon pros iatrikên epeskephthai." kai mên, ô gennaiotate, kai kenousthai chrênai phaskeis ek tou zôou ton chymon touton kai megalôs lypein, ei mê kenôtheiê. pôs oun ouden ex autou chrêston hypolambanôn gignesthai tolmas achrêston legein eis iatrikên einai tèn peri tês geneseôs autou skepsin?

Pg 176
[Greek text](#)

Hypokeisthô gar en men tois sitiois periechesthai, mê diakrinsthai d' akribôs en

114 hêpati; tauta gar amphotera nomizeis einai dynata. kai mên ou smikron entautha to diapheron ê elachistên ê pampollên cholên en heautois periechonta prosarasthai sitia. ta men gar akindyna, ta de pampollên periechonta tô mê dynasthai pasan autên en || hêpati katharthênai kalôs aitia katastêsetai tôn t' allôn pathôn, hôn autos ho Erasistratos epi plêthei cholês gignesthai phêsi, kai tôn ikterôn ouch hêkista. pôs oun ouk anankaiotaton iatrô gignôskein, prôton men, hôs en tois sitiois autois exôthen hê cholê periechetai, deuteron d', hôs to men teutlon, ei tychoi, pampollên, ho d' artos elachistên kai to men elaion pleistên, ho d' oinos oligistên hekaston te tôn allôn anison tô plêthei periechei tèn cholên? pôs gar ouk an eiê geloiotatos, hos an hekôn hairêtai ta pleiona cholên en heautois periechonta pro tôn enantiôn?

Pg 178
[Greek text](#)

115 Ti d' ei mê periechetai men en tois sitiois hê cholê, gignetai d' en tois tôn zôn sômasin? ê ouchi kai kata touto chrêsimon epistasthai, tini men katastasei sômatos hepetai pleiôn autês hê genesis, tini d' elattôn? alloioun gar dêpou kai metaballein hoioi t' esmen kai trepein epi to beltion aei tas mochthêras katastaseis tou sômatos. all' ei mê gignôskoimen, kathoti mochthêrai kai hopê tês deousês existantai, pôs an autas epanagein hoioi t' eiêmen epi to || kreitton?

116 Oukoun achrêston estin eis tas iaseis, hôs Erasistratos phêsin, epistasthai talêthes auto peri geneseôs cholês. ou mên oud' adynaton oud' asaphes exeurein, hoti mê tô pleistên en heautô periechein to meli tèn xanthên cholên all' en tô sômati metaballomenon eis autên alloioutai te kai trepetai. pikron te gar an ên geuomenois, ei cholên exôthen euthys en heautô perieichen hapasi t' an hêsautôs tois anthrôpois ison autês egenna to plêthos. all' ouch hôd' echei talêthes. en men gar tois akmazousi kai malist' ei physei thermoteroi kai bion eien biountes talaipôron, hapan eis xanthên cholên metaballei to meli; tois gerousi d' hikanôs estin epitêdeion, hôs an ouk eis cholên all' eis haima tèn alloiôsin en ekeinois lambanon. Erasistratos de pros tô mêden toutôn gignôskein oude peri tèn diaresin tou logou sôphronei, poteron en tois sitiois hê cholê periechetai euthys ex archês ê kata tèn en tê koilia katergasian egeneto, mêden einai chrêsimon eis iatrikên epeskephthai legôn. echrên || gar dêpou prostheinai ti kai peri tês en hêpati kai phlepsi geneseôs autês, en toisde tois organois gennasthai tèn cholên hama tô haimati tôn palaiôn iatrôn te kai philosophôn apophênamenôn. alla tois euthys ex archês sphaleisi kai diamartanousi tês orthês hodou toiauta te lêrein anankaion esti kai proseti tôn chrêsimôtatôn eis tèn technên paralipein tèn zêtêsin.

Pg 180
[Greek text](#)

117 Hêdeôs d' an entautha tou logou gegonôs êromên tous homilêsai phaskontas auton epi pleiston tois ek tou peripatou philosophois, ei gignôskousin, hosa peri tou kekrasthai ta sômath' hêmôn ek thermou kai psychrou kai xêrou kai hygrou pros Aristotelous eirêtai te kai apodedeiktai, kai hôs to thermon en autois esti to drastikôtaton kai hôs tôn zôn hosa men thermotera physei, tauta pantôs enaïma, ta d' epi pleon psychrotera pantôs anaïma kai dia touto tou cheimônos arga kai akinêta keitai phôleuonta dikên nekrôn. eirêtai de kai peri tês chroïas tou haimatos ouk Aristotelei monon, alla kai Platôni. kai hêmeis nyn, hoper êdê kai prosthen eïpon, || ou ta kalôs apodedeigmata tois palaiois legein prouthemetha, mête tê gnômê mête tê lexei tous andras ekeinous hyperbalesthai dynamenoi; ta d' êtoi chôris apodeixeôs hôs enargê pros autôn eirêmena dia to mêd' hyponoêsai mochthêrous houtôs esesthai tinas sophistas, hoi kataphronêsousi tês en autois alêtheias, ê kai paraleleimmena teleôs hyp' ekeinôn axioumen heuriskein te kai apodeiknynai.

Pg 182
[Greek text](#)

118 Peri de tês tôn chymôn geneseôs ouk oid', ei echei tis heteron prostheinai sophôteron hôn Hippokratês eïpe kai Aristotelês kai Praxagoras kai Philotimos kai alloi polloi tôn palaiôn. apodedeiktai gar ekeinois tois andrasin alloioumenês tês trophês en tais phlepsin hypo tês emphytou thermasias haima men hypo tês symmetrias tês kat' autên, hoi d' alloi chymoi dia tas ametrias gignomenoi; kai toutô tô logô panth' homologei ta phainomena. kai gar tôn edesmatôn hosa men esti thermotera physei, cholôdestera, ta de psychrotera phlegmatikôtera; kai tôn hêlikiôn hêsautôs cholôdeste||rai men hai thermoteraï physei, phlegmatôdesteraï d' hai psychroterai; kai tôn epitêdeumatôn de kai tôn chôrôn kai tôn hôrôn kai poly dê proteron eti tôn physeôn autôn hai men psychroterai phlegmatôdesteraï, cholôdesteraï d' hai thermoteraï; kai nosêmatôn ta men psychra tou phlegmatos ekgona, ta de therma tês xanthês cholês; kai holôs ouden estin heurein tôn pantôn, ho mê toutô tô logô martyrei. pôs d' ou mellei? dia gar tèn ek tôn tettarôn poian krasin hekastou tôn moriôn hôdi pôs energountos anankê pasa kai dia tèn blabên autôn ê diaphtheiresthai teleôs ê empodizesthai ge tèn energieian kai houtô nosein to zôn ê holon ê kata ta moria.

Pg 184
[Greek text](#)

119 Kai ta prôta ge kai genikôtata nosêmata tettara ton arithmon hyparchei thermotêti kai psychrotêti kai xêrotêti kai hygrotêti diapheronta. touto de kai autos ho Erasistratos homologei kaitoi mê boulomenos. hotan gar en tois pyretois cheïrous tôn sitiôn tas pepseis gignesthai legê, mê dioti tês emphytou || thermasias hê symmetria diephthartai, kathaper hoi prosthen hypelambanon, all' hoti peristellesthai kai tribein hê gastêr ouch homoiôs dynatai beblammenê tèn energieian, eresthai dikaion auton, hypo tinos hê tês gastros energieia beblaptai.

Genomenou gar, ei tychoi, boubônos epi prosptaismati, prin men pyrexai ton anthrôpon, ouk an cheiron hê gastêr pepseien; ou gar hikanon ên oudeteron autôn

120 outh' ho boubôn oute to helkos empodisai ti kai blapsai tèn energieian tês koilias; ei de pyrexeien, euthys men hai pepseis gignontai cheirous, euthys de kai tèn energieian tês gastros beblaphthai phamen orthôs legontes. all' hypo tinos eblabê, prostheinai chrê tô logô. to men gar helkos ouch hoion t' ên autên blaptein, hôsper oud' ho boubôn; ê gar an eblapse kai pro tou pyretou. ei de mê tauta, dêlon, hôs hê tês thermasias pleonexia. dyo gar tauta prosegneto tô boubôni, hê tês kata tas artêrias te kai tèn kardian kinêseôs alloiôsis kai hê tês kata physin thermasias pleonexia. all' hê men tês kinêseôs alloiôsis ou monon ouden blapsei tèn energieian tês ga||stros, alla kai prosôphelêsei kat' ekeina tòn zôn, en hois eis tèn pepsin hypetheto pleiston dynasthai to dia tòn artêriôn eis tèn koilian empipton pneuma. dia loipên oun eti kai monên tèn ametron thermasian hê blabê tês energieias tē gastri. to men gar pneuma sphodroteron te kai synecheteron kai pleon emiptei nyn ê proteron. hôste tautê men mallon pepsei ta dia to pneuma kalôs pettonta zôa, dia loipên d' eti tèn para physin thermasian apeptêsei. to gar kai tô pneumatî phanai tin' hyparchein idiotêta, kath' hên pettei, kapeita tautên pyrettontôn diaphtheiresthai kath' heteron tropon estin homologêsai to atopon. erôtêhentes gar authis, hypo tinos êlloiôthê to pneuma, monên hexousin apokrinesthai tèn para physin thermasian kai malist' epi tou kata tèn koilian; oude gar plêsiazei kat' ouden touto tô boubôni.

Pg 186
[Greek text](#)

121 Kaitoi ti tòn zôn ekeinôn, en hois hê tou pneumatous idiotês mega dynatai, mnêmoneuô, paron ep' anthrôpous, en hois ê ouden ê pantapasin amy||dron ti kai mikron ôphelei, poieisthai ton logon? all' hoti men en tois pyretois houtoi kakôs pettousin, homologei kai autos kai tèn g' aitian prostitheis beblaphthai phêsi tês gastros tèn energieian. ou mên allên ge tina prophasin tês blabês eipein echei plên tês para physin thermasias. all' ei blapte tèn energieian hê para physin thermasia mê kata ti symbebêkos, alla dia tèn hautês ousian te kai dynamin, ek tòn prôtôn an eiê nosêmatôn; kai mên ouk endechetai tòn prôtôn men einai nosêmatôn tèn ametrian tês thermasias, tèn d' energieian hypo tês eukrasias mê gignesthai. oude gar di' allo ti dynaton gignesthai tèn dyskrasian aitian tòn prôtôn nosêmatôn all' ê dia tèn eukrasian diaphtheiromenên. tô gar hypo tautês gignesthai tas energieias anankê kai tas prôtas autôn blabas diaphtheiromenês gignesthai.

Pg 188
[Greek text](#)

122 Hoti men oun kai kat' auton ton Erasistraton hê eukrasia tou thermou tòn energieôn aitia, tois theôrein to akolouthon dynamenous hikanôs apodedeichthai nomizô. toutou d' hyparchontos hêmin ouden eti chalepon || eph' hekastês energieias tē men eukrasia to beltion hepesthai legein, tē de dyskrasia ta cheirô. kai toinyn eiper tauth' houtôs echei, to men haima tês symmetrou thermasias, tèn de xanthên cholên tês ametrou nomisteon hyparchein engonon. houtô gar kai hêmin en te tais thermais hêlikiais kai tois thermois chôriais kai tais hôrais tou etous tais thermais kai tais thermais katastasesin, hôsautôs de kai tais thermais krasesi tòn anthrôpôn kai tois epitêdeumasi te kai tois diaitêmasi kai tois nosêmasi tois thermois eulogôs hê xanthê cholê pleistê phainetai gignomenê.

Pg 190
[Greek text](#)

123 To d' aporein, eit' en tois sômasi tòn anthrôpôn ho chymos houtos echei tèn genesin eit' en tois sitiois periechetai, mêd' hoti tois hygiainousin amemptôs, hotan asitêsôsi para to ethos hypo tinos peristaseôs pragmatôn anankasthentes, pikron men to stoma gignetai, cholôdê de ta oura, daknetai d' hê gastêr, heôrakotos estin all' hôsper exaiphnês nyn eis ton kosmon elêlythotos kai mêpô ta kat' auton phainomena gignôskontos. epei tis ouk oiden, hôs hekaston tòn hepsomenôn epi pleon halykôteron men to prôton, hysteron || de pikroteron gignetai? kan ei to meli boulêtheiês auto to pantôn glykytatou epi pleiston hepsein, apodeixeis kai touto pikrotaton; ho gar tois allois, hosa mê physei therma, para tês hepsêseôs engignetai, tout' ek physeôs hyparchei tô meliti. dia tout' oun hepsomenon ou gignetai glykyteron; hoson gar echrên einai thermodêtos eis genesin glykytêtos, akribôs autô touto pan oikothern hyparchei. ho toinyn exôthen tois ellipôs thermois ên ôphelimon, tout' ekeinô blabê te kai ametria gignetai kai dia touto thatton tòn allôn hepsomenon apodeiknytai pikron. di' auto de touto kai tois thermois physei kai tois akmazousin eis cholên hetoimôs metaballetai. thermô gar thermon plêsiazon eis ametrian kraseôs hetoimôs existatai kai phthanei cholê gignomenon, ouch haima. deitai toinyn psychras men kraseôs anthrôpou, psychras d' hêlikias, hin' eis haimatos agêtai physin. oukoun apo tropou synebouleusen Hippokratês tois physei pikrocholois mê prospheirin to meli, hôs an thermoteras || dêlonoti kraseôs hyparchousin. houtô de kai tois nosêmasi tois pikrocholois polemion einai to meli kai tē tòn gerontôn hêlikia philion ouch Hippokratês monon alla kai pantes iatroi legousin, hoi men ek tês physeôs autou tèn dynamin endeixamenês heurontes, hoi d' ek tês peiras monês. oude gar oude tois apo tês empeirias iatrois heteron ti para tauta tetêrêtai gignomenon, alla chrêston men geronti, neô d' ou chrêston, kai tô men physei pikrocholô blaberon, ôphelimon de tô phlegmatôdei; kai tòn nosêmatôn hôsautôs tois men pikrocholois echthron, tois de phlegmatôdesi philion; heni de logô tois men thermois sômasin ê dia physin ê dia noson ê di' hêlikian ê di' hôran ê dia chôran ê di' epitêdeuma cholês gennêtikon, haimatos de tois enantiois.

Pg 192
[Greek text](#)

125 Kai mên ouk endechetai tauton edesma tois men cholên gennan, tois d' haima mê ouk en tô sômati tês geneosês autôn epiteloumenês. ei gar dê oikothern ge kai par' heautou tòn edesmatôn hekaston echon kai ouk en tois tòn zôn sômasi || metaballomenon egenna tèn cholên, en hapasin an homiôs autên tois sômasin

Pg 194
[Greek text](#)

egenna kai to men pikron exô geuomenois ên an oimai cholês poiêtikon, ei de ti glyky kai chrêston, ouk an oude to brachytaton ex autou cholês egennato. kai mên ou to meli monon, alla kai tôn allôn hekaston tôn glykeôn tois proeirêmenois sômasi tois di' hotioun tôn eirêmenôn thermois ousin eis cholên hetoimôs existatai.

Kaitoi taut' ouk oid' hopôs exênechthên eipein ou proelomenos all' hyp' autês tou logou tês akolouthias anankastheis. eirêtai d' epi pleiston hyper autôn Aristotelei te kai Praxagora tèn Hippokratous kai Platônos gnômên orthôs exêgêsamenois.

IX

126 Mê toinyn hôs apodeixeis hyph' hêmôn eirêsthai nomizein ta toiauta mallon ê peri tês tôn allôs gignôskontôn anaisthêsias endeixeis, hoi mêde ta pros hapantôn homologoumena kai kath' hekastên hêmeran phainomena gignôskousin; tas d' apodeixeis autôn tas kat' epistêmên ex ekeinôn chrê lambanein tôn archôn, hôn êdê kai prosthen || eipomen, hôs to dran kai paschein eis allêla tois sômasin hyparchei kata to thermon kai psychron kai xêron kai hygron. kai eite phlebas eith' hêpar eit' artêrias eite kardian eite koilian eit' allo ti morion energein tis phêseien hêntinoun energeian, apyktois anankais anankasthêsetai dia tèn ek tôn tettarôn poian krasin homologêsai tèn energeian hyparchein autô. dia ti gar hê gastêr peristelletai tois sitiois, dia ti d' hai phlebas haima gennôsi, para tôn Erasistrateiôn edeomên akousai. to gar hoti peristelletai monon auto kath' heauto gignôskein oudepô chrêston, ei mê kai tèn aitian eideiêmên; houtô gar an oimai kai ta sphalmata therapeusaimen. ou melei, phasin, hêmin oude polypragmonoumen eti tas toiautas aitias; hyper iatron gar eisi kai tô physikô prosêkousi. poteron oun oud' antereite tô phaskonti tèn men eukrasian tèn kata physin aitian einai tês energeias hekastô tôn organôn, tèn d' au dyskrasian noson t' êdê kaleisthai kai pantôs hyp' au||tês blaptesthai tèn energeian? ê peisthêsesthe tais tôn palaiôn apodeixesin? ê triton ti kai meson hekaterou toutôn praxete mêth' hôs alêthesi tois logois ex anankês peithomenoi mêt' antilegontes hôs pseudessin, all' aporêtikoi tines exaiphnês kai Pyrrhônioi genêsesthe? kai mên ei touto drasete, tèn empeirian anankaion hymin prostêsasthai. tô gar an eti tropô kai tôn iamaton euporoiête tèn ousian hekastou tôn nosêmatôn agnoountes? ti oun ouk ex archês empeirikous hymas autous ekalesate? ti de pragmath' hêmin parechete physikas energeias epangellomenoi zêtein iaseôs heneken? ei gar adynatos hê gastêr esti tini peristellesthai kai tribein, pôs autên eis to kata physin epanaxomen agnoountes tèn aitian tês adynamias? egô men phêmi tèn men hypertethermasmenên empsykteon hêmin einai, tèn d' epsygmênên thermanteon; houtô de kai tèn exêrasmenên hydranteon, tèn d' hygrasmenêna xêranteon. alla kai || kata syzygian, ei thermodera tou kata physin hama kai xêrotera tychoi gegenêmênê, kephalaion einai tês iaseôs empsychein th' hama kai hygrainein; ei d' au psychrotera te kai hygrotera, thermainein te kai xêrainein kapi tôn allôn hôsautôs; hoi d' ap' Erasistratou ti pote kai praxousin oud' holôs zêtein tôn energeiôn tas aitias homologountes? ho gar toi karpos tês peri tôn energeiôn zêtêseôs houtos esti, to tas aitias tôn dyskrasiôn eidota eis to kata physin epanagein autas, hôs auto ge monon to gnônai tèn hekastou tôn organôn energeian hêtis estin oupô chrêston eis tas iaseis.

128 Erasistratos de moi dokei kai auto tout' agnoein, hôs, hêtis an en tô sômati diathesis blaptê tèn energeian mê kata ti symbebêkos alla prôtôs te kai kath' heautên, hautê to nosêma estin auto. pôs oun eti diagnôstikos te kai iatikos estai tôn nosêmatôn agnoôn holôs auta tina t' esti kai posa kai poia? kata men dê tèn gastera to ge tosouton Erasistratos êxiôse zêteisthai to pôs pettetai ta sitia; || to d' hêtis prôtê te kai archêgos aitia toutou, pôs ouk epeskepsato? kata de tas phlebas kai to haima kai auto to pôs parelipen.

129 All' outh' Hippokratês out' allos tis hôn oligô prosthen emnêmoneusa philosophôn ê iatron axion ôet' einai paralipein; alla tèn kata physin en hekastô zôô thermasian eukraton te kai metriôs hygran ousan haimatos einai phasi gennêtikên kai di' auto ge touto kai to haima thermon kai hygron einai phasi tê dynamei chymon, hôsper tèn xanthên cholên thermên kai xêran einai, ei kai hoti malisth' hygra phainetai. diapherein gar autois dokei to kata phantasian hygron tou kata dynamin. ê tis ouk oiden, hôs halmê men kai thalatta taricheuei ta krea kai asêpta diaphylattei, to d' allo pan hydôr to potimon hetoimôs diaphtheirei te kai sêpei? tis d' ouk oiden, hôs xanthês cholês en tê gastri periechomenês pollês apaustô dipsei synechometha kai hôs emesantes autên euthys adipsoi gignometha mallon ê ei pampoly poton prosêrametha? || thermos oun eulogôs ho chymos houtos eirêtai kai xêros kata dynamin, hôsper ge kai to phlegma psychron kai hygron. enargeis gar kai peri toutou pisteis Hippokratei te kai tois allois eirêntai palaiois.

130 Prodikos d' en tô peri physeôs anthrôpou grammati to synkekaumenon kai hoion hyperôptêmênon en tois chymois onomazôn phlegma para to pephlechthai tê lexei men heterôs chrêtai, phylattei mentoi to pragma kata tauto tois allois. tèn d' en tois onomasi tandros toutou kainotomian hikanôs endeiknytai kai Platôn. alla touto ge to pros hapantôn anthrôpôn onomazomenon phlegma to leukon tèn chroan, ho blennan onomazei Prodikos, ho psychros kai hygros chymos estin houtos kai pleistos tois te gerousi kai tois hopôsdêpote psygeisin athroizetai kai oudeis oude mainomenos an allo ti ê psychron kai hygron eipoi an auton.

Pg 196
[Greek text](#)

Pg 198
[Greek text](#)

Pg 200
[Greek text](#)

Pg 202
[Greek text](#)

131 Ar' oun thermos men tis esti kai hygros chymos kai thermos kai xêros heteros kai hygros kai psychros allos, oudeis d' esti psychros kai xêros tèn dynamin, all' hê tetartê syzygia tòn kraseôn || en hapasi tois allois hyparchousa monois tois chymois ouch hyparchei? kai mên hê ge melaina cholê toioutos esti chymos, hon hoi sôphronountes iatroi kai philosophoi pleonektein ephasan tòn men hôrôn tou etous en phthinopôrô malista, tòn d' hêlikion en tais meta tèn akmên. houtô de kai diaitêmata kai chôria kai katastaseis kai nosous tinas psychras kai xêras einai phasin; ou gar dê cholên en tautê monê tê syzygia tèn physin einai nomizousin all' hôsper tas allas treis houtô kai tênde dia pantôn ektetasthai.

132 Êxamên oun kantauth' erôtêsai dynasthai ton Erasistraton, ei mêden organon hê technikê physis edêmiourgêse kathartikon tou toioutou chymou, alla tòn men ourôn ara tês diakriseôs estin organa dyo kai tês xanthês cholês heteron ou smikron, ho de toutôn kakoêthesteros chymos alatai dia pantos en tais phlepsin anamemigmenos tô haimati. kaitoi "Dysenteriê," phêsi pou Hippokratês, "ên apo cholês melainês arxêtai, thanasimon," ou mên hê g' apo tês xan||thês cholês archomenê pantôs olethrios, all' hoi pleious ex autês diasôzontai. tosoutô kakoêthestera te kai drimytera tèn dynamin hê melaina cholê tês xanthês estin. ar' oun oute tòn allôn anegnô ti tòn tou Hippokratous grammatôn ho Erasistratos ouden oute to peri physeôs anthrôpou biblion, hin' houtôs argôs parelthoi tèn peri tòn chymôn episkepsin, ê gignôskei men, hekôn de paraleipei kallistên tês technês theôrian? echrên oun auton mêde peri tou splênos eirêkenai ti mêd' aschêmonein hypo tês technikês physeôs organon têlikouton matên hêgoumenon kateskeuasthai. kai mên ouch Hippokratês monon ê Platôn, ouden ti cheirous Erasistratou peri physin andres, hen ti tòn kathairontôn to haima kai tout' einai phasi to splanchnon, alla kai myrioi syn autois alloi tòn palaiôn iatrôn te kai philosophôn, hôn hapantôn prospoiêsamenos hyperphronein ho gennaios Erasistratos out' anteipen outh' holôs tês doxês autôn emnêmonouse. kai mên hosois ge to sôma thallei, toutois ho splên phthinei, phêsin Hippokratês, kai hoi apo tês || 133 empeirias hormômenoi pantes homologousin iatroi. kai hosois g' au megas kai hypoulos auxanetai, toutois kataphtheirei te kai kakochyma ta sômata tithêsîn, hês kai touto palin ouch Hippokratês monon alla kai Platôn alloi te polloi kai hoi apo tês empeirias homologousin iatroi. kai hoi apo splênos de kakopragountos ikteroi melanteroi kai tòn helkôn hai oulai melainai. katholou gar, hotan endeesteron ê prosêken eis heauton helkê ton melancholikon chymon, akatharton men to haima, kakochroun de to pan gignetai sôma. pote d' endeesteron helkei? ê dêlon hoti kakôs diakeimenos? hôsper oun tois nephrois energeias ousês helkein ta oura kakôs helkein hyparchei kakopragousin, houtô kai tô splêni poiôtêtos melancholikês helktikên en heautô dynamin echonti symphyton arrhôtêsanti pote tautên anankaion helkein kakôs kan tôde pachyteron êdê kai melanteron gignesthai to haima.

134 Taut' oun hapanta pros te tas diagnôseis tòn nosêmatôn kai tas iaseis megistên parechomena chreian || hyperepêdêse teleôs ho Erasistratos kai kataphronein prosepoiêsato têlikoutôn andrôn ho mêde tòn tychontôn kataphronôn all' aei philotimôs antilegôn tais êlithiôtatais doxais. hô kai dêlon, hês ouden echôn out' anteipein tois presbyterois hyper hôn apephênanto peri splênos energeias te kai chreias out' autos exeuriskôn ti kainon eis to mêden holôs eipein aphiketo. all' hêmeis ge prôton men ek tòn aitiôn, hois hapanta dioikeitai ta kata tas physeis, tou thermou legô kai psychrou kai xêrou kai hygrou, deuteron d' ex autôn tòn enargôs phainomenôn kata to sôma psychron kai xêron einai tina chrênai chymon apedeixamen. hexês d', hoti kai melancholikos houtos hyparchei kai to kathairon auton splanchnon ho splên estin, dia bracheôn hês eni malista tòn tois palaiois apodeideigmenôn anamnêsantes epi to leipon eti tois parousi logois aphixometha.

135 Ti d' an eiê leipon allo g' ê exêgêsasthai saphôs, hoion ti boulontai te || kai apodeiknyousi peri tèn tòn chymôn genesin hoi palaioi symbainein. enargesteron d' an gnôstheî dia paradeigmatos. oinon dê moi noei gleukinon ou pro pollou tòn staphylôn ektethlimmenon zeonta te kai alloiomenon hypo tês en autô thermasias; epeita kata tèn autou metabolên dyo gennômena perittômata to men kouphoteron te kai aerôdesteron, to de baryteron te kai geôdesteron, hôn to men anthos, oimai, to de tryga kalousi. toutôn tô men heterô tèn xanthên cholên, tô d' heterô tèn melainan eikazôn ouk an hamartois, ou tèn autên echontôn idean tòn chymôn toutôn en tô kata physin dioikeisthai to zôon, hoian kai para physin echontos epiphainontai pollakis. hê men gar xanthê lekithôdês gignetai; kai gar onomazousin houtôs autên, hoti tais tòn ôôn lekithois homoioutai kata te chroan kai pachos. hê d' au melaina kakoêthestera men poly kai hautê tês kata physin; onoma d' ouden idion keitai tô toioutô chymô, plên ei pou tines ê xystikon ê oxôdê keklêkasin auton, hoti kai drimys homoiôs oxei gignetai kai || xyei ge to sôma tou zôou kai tèn gên, ei kat' autês ekchytheî, kai tina meta pompholygôn hoion zymôsin te kai zesin ergazetai, sêpedonos epiktêtou proselthousês ekeinô tô kata physin echonti chymô tô melani. kai moi dokousin hoi pleistoi tòn palaiôn iatrôn auto men to kata physin echon tou toioutou chymou kai diachôroun katô kai pollakis epipolazon anô melana kalein chymon, ou melainan cholên, to d' ek synkauseôs tinos kai sêpedonos eis tèn oxean methistamenon poiôtêta melainan onomazein cholên. alla peri men tòn onomatôn ou chrê diapheresthai, to d' alêthes hôd' echon eidenai.

136 Kata tèn tou haimatos genesin hoson an hikanôs pachy kai geôdes ek tês tòn sitiôn

Pg 204
[Greek text](#)

Pg 206
[Greek text](#)

Pg 208
[Greek text](#)

Pg 210
[Greek text](#)

137 physeôs empheromenon tē trophē mē dexētai kalôs tēn ek tēs emphytou thermasias alloiōsin, ho splēn eis heauton helkei touto. to d' optēthen, hōs an tis eipoi, kai synkauthen tēs trophēs, eiē d' an touto to therमतaton en autē kai glykytaton, hoion to te meli kai hē pimelē, xanthē genomenon cholē dia tōn cholēdochōn onomazomenōn angeiōn ekkathairetai. || leptōn d' esti touto kai hygron kai rhyton ouch hōsper hotan optēthen eschatōs xanthon kai pyrōdes kai pachy genētai tais tōn ôōn homoion lekithois. touto men gar êdē para physin; thateron de to proteron eirēmenon kata physin estin; hōsper ge kai tou melanos chymou to men mêpō tēn hoion zesin te kai zymōsin tēs gēs ergazomenon kata physin esti, to d' eis toiautēn methistamenon idean te kai dynamin êdē para physin, hōs an tēn ek tēs synkauseôs tou para physin thermou proseilēphos drimytēta kai hoion tephra tis êdē gegonos. hōde pōs kai hē kekaumenē tryx tēs akaoustou diēnenke. thermon gar ti chrēma hautē g' hikanōs estin, hōste kaiein te kai tēkein kai diaphtheirein tēn sarka. tē d' hetera tē mêpō kekaumenē tous iatrous estin heurein chrōmenous eis hosaper kai tē gē tē kaloumenē keramitidi kai tois allois, hosa xērainein th' hama kai psychein pephyken.

Pg 212
[Greek text](#)

138 Eis tēn tēs houtō synkauthēsēs melainēs cholēs idean kai hē lekithōdēs ekeinē methistatai pollakis, hotan kai autē poth' hoion optētheisa tychē pyrōdei thermasia. ta d' alla || tōn cholōn eidē sympanta ta men ek tēs tōn eirēmenōn krasesōs gignetai, ta d' hoion hodoi tines eisi tēs toutōn geneseōs te kai eis allēla metabolēs. diapherousi de tō tas men akratous einai kai monas, ta d' hoion orrhois tisin exygrasmenas. all' hoi men orrhoi tōn chymōn hapantes perittōmata kai katharon autōn einai deitai tou zōou to sōma. tōn d' eirēmenōn chymōn esti tis chreia tē physei kai tou pacheos kai tou leptou kai kathairetai pros te tou splēnos kai tēs epi tō hēpati kysteōs to haima kai apotithetai tosouton te kai toiouton hekaterou meros, hoson kai hoion, eiper eis holon ênechthē tou zōou to sōma, blabēn an tin' eirgasato. to gar hikanōs pachy kai geōdes kai teleōs diapepheugos tēn en tō hēpati metabolēn ho splēn eis heauton helkei; to d' allo to metriōs pachy syn tō kateirgasthai pantē pheretai. deitai gar en pollois tou zōou moriois pachytētos tinos to haima kathaper oimai kai tōn || empheromenōn inōn. kai eirētai men kai Platōni peri tēs chreias autōn, eirēsetai de kai hēmin en ekeinois tois grammasin, en hois an tas chreias tōn moriōn dierchōmetha; deitai d' ouch hēkista kai tou xanthou chymou tou mêpō pyrōdous eschatōs gegenēmenou to haima kai tis autō kai hē para toude chreia, di' ekeinōn eirēsetai.

Pg 214
[Greek text](#)

140 Phlegmatos d' ouden epoiēsen hē physis organon kathartikon, hoti psychron kai hygron esti kai hoion hēmiptētos tis trophē. deitai toinyn ou kenousthai to toiouton all' en tō sōmati menon alloiousthai. to d' ex enkephalou katarrheon perittōma tacha men an oude phlegma tis orthōs alla blennan te kai koryzan, hōsper oun kai onomazetai, kaloiē. ei de mē, all' hoti ge tēs toutou kenōseōs orthōs hē physis prounoēsato, kai tout' en tois peri chreias moriōn eirēsetai. kai gar oun kai to kata te tēn gastera kai ta entera synistamenon phlegma hopōs an ekkenōthē kai auto tachista te kai kallista, to pareskeuasmenon tē physei mēchanēma di' ekeinōn eirēsetai kai auto tōn hypomnē||matōn. hoson oun empheretai tais phlepsi phlegma chrēsimon hyparchon tois zōois, oudemias deitai kenōseōs. prosechein de chrē kantautha ton noun kai gignōskein, hōsper tōn cholōn hekateras to men ti chrēsimon esti kai kata physin tois zōois, to d' achrēston te kai para physin, houtō kai tou phlegmatos, hoson men an ē glyky, chrēston einai touto tō zōō kai kata physin, hoson d' oxy kai halmyron egeneto, to men oxy teleōs êpeptēsthai, to d' halmyron diasēsēphthai. teleian d' aepsian phlegmatos akouein chrē tēn tēs deuteras pepseōs dêlonoti tēs en phlepsin; ou gar dê tēs ge prôtēs tēs kata tēn koilian; ê oud' an egenēto tēn archēn chymos, ei kai tautēn diepepheugei.

Pg 216
[Greek text](#)

141 Taut' arkein moi dokei peri geneseōs te kai diaphthoras chymōn hypomnēmat' einai tōn Hippokratei te kai Platōni kai Aristotelei kai Praxagora kai Dioklei kai pollois allois tōn palaiōn eirēmenōn; ou gar edikaiōsa panta metapherein eis tonde ton logon ta teleōs ekeinois gegrammena. tosouton de monon hyper hekastou eipon, hoson exormēsei te tous || entynchanontas, ei mē pantapasin eien skaioi, tois tōn palaiōn homilēsai grammasi kai tēn eis to rhaon autois syneinai boētheian parexei. gegraptai de pou kai di' heterou logou peri tōn kata Praxagoran ton Nikarchou chymōn. ei gar kai hoti malista deka poiei chōris tou haimatos, hendekatos gar an eiē chymos auto to haima, tēs Hippokratous ouk apochōrei didaskalias. all' eis eidē tina kai diaphoras temnei tous hyp' ekeinou prōtou pantōn hama tais oikeiais apodeixesin eirēmenous chymous.

Pg 218
[Greek text](#)

142 Epainein men oun chrē tous t' exēgēsamenous ta kalōs eirēmēna kai tous ei ti paraleiptai prostithentas; ou gar hoion te ton auton arxasthai te kai teleiōsai; memphesthai de tous houtōs atalaipōrous, hōs mēden hypomenein mathein tōn orthōs eirēmenōn, kai tous eis tosouton philotimous, hōst' epithymia neōtērōn dogmatōn aei panourgein ti kai sophizesthai, ta men hekontas paralipontas, hōsper Erasistratos epi tōn chymōn epoiēse, ta de pa||nourgōs antilegontas, hōsper autos th' houtos kai alloi polloi tōn neōtērōn.

All' houtos men ho logos entauthoi teleutatō, to d' hypoloipon hapan en tō tritō prosthēsō.

I

143 Hoti men oun hê threpsis alloioumenou te kai homoioumenou gignetai tou trephontos
tô trephomenô kai hôs en hekastô tôn tou zôou moriôn esti tis dynamis, hên apo tês
energeias alloiôtikên men kata genos, homoiôtikên de kai threptikên kat' eidos
onomazomen, en tô prosthen dedêlôtai logô. tèn d' euporian tês hylês, hên trophên
heautô poieitai to trephomenon, ex heteras tinos echein edeiknyto dynamêôs
144 episplasthai pephykuias ton oikeion chymon, einai d' oikeion hekastô tôn moriôn
chymon, hos an || epitêdeios eis tèn exomoiôsin ê, kai tèn helkousan auton dynamin
apo tês energieias helktikên te tina kai episplastikên onomazesthai. dedeiktai de kai,
hôs pro men tês homoiôseôs hê prospophysis estin, ekeinês d' emprosthen hê
prosthesis gignetai, telos, hôs an eipoi tis, ousa tês kata tèn episplastikên dynamin
energeias. auto men gar to paragesthai tèn trophên ek tôn phlebôn eis hekaston tôn
moriôn tês helktikês energousês gignetai dynamêôs, to d' êdê parêchthai te kai
prostithesthai tô moriô to telos estin auto, di' ho kai tês toiautês energieias
edeêthêmen; hina gar prostethê, dia tout' helketai. chronou d' enteuthen êdê
pleionos eis tèn threpsin tou zôou dei; helchthênai men gar kai dia tacheôn ti
dynatai, prospohnai de kai alloiôthênai kai teleôs homoiôthênai tô trephomenô kai
meros autou genesthai parachrêma men ouch hoion te, chronô d' an pleioni
symbainoi kalôs. all' ei mê menoi kata to meros ho prostethis houtos chymos, eis
heteron de ti methistaito kai pararrheoi dia pantos ameibôn te kai hypallattôn ta
145 chôria, kat' ouden autôn || oute prospophysis out' exomoiôsis estai. dei de kantautha
tinos tê physei dynamêôs heteras eis polychronion monên tou prostethentos tô moriô
chymou kai tautês ouk exôthen pothen epirrheousês all' en autô tô threpsomenô
katôkismenês, hên apo tês energieias palin hoi pro hêmôn ênankasthêsan onomasai
kathektikên.

Pg 224
[Greek text](#)

Ho men dê logos êdê saphôs enedeixato tèn anankên tês geneseôs tês toiautês
dynamêôs kai hostis akolouthias synesin echei, pepeistai behaiôs ex hôn eipomen,
hôs hypokeimenou te kai proapodedeigmenou tou technikên einai tèn physin kai tou
zôou kêdemonikên anankaion hyparchein autê kai tèn toiautên dynamin.

Pg 226
[Greek text](#)

II

All' hêmeis ou toutô monô tô genei tês apodeixeôs eithismenoi chrêsthai,
prostithentes d' autô kai tas ek tôn enargôs phainomenôn anankazousas te kai
biazomenas pisteis epi tas toiautas kai nyn aphixometha kai deixomen epi men tinôn
146 moriôn tou sômatos houtôs enargê tèn kathektikên dynamin, hôs autais tais
aisthêsesi || diagignôskesthai tèn energieian autês, epi de tinôn hêtton men enargôs
tais aisthêsesi, logô de kantautha phôrathênai dynamenên.

Arxômeth' oun tês didaskalias ap' autou tou teôs prôton methodô tini procheirisasthai
mori' atta tou sômatos, eph' hôn akribôs esti basanisai te kai zêtêsai tèn kathektikên
dynamin hopoia pot' estin.

Ar' oun ameinion an tis heterôthen ê apo tôn megistôn te kai koilotatôn organôn
hyparxaito tês zêtêseôs? emoi men oun ouk an dokei beltion. enargeis goun eikos epi
toutôn phanênai tas energieias dia to megethos; hôs ta ge smikra tach' an, ei kai
sphodran echei tèn toiautên dynamin, all' ouk aisthêsei g' hetoimên diagignôskesthai
tèn energieian autês.

All' estin en tois malista koilotata kai megista tôn tou zôou moriôn hê te gastêr kai
<hai> mêtrai te kai hysterai kaloumenai. ti oun kôlyei tauta prôta procheirisamenous
episkepsasthai tas energieias autôn, hosai men kai pro tês anatomês dêlai, tèn
147 exetasin eph' hêmôn autôn poioumenous, hosai d' amydroterai, ta paraplêsia
diarountas anthrôpô zôa, || ouch hôs ouk an hikanôs to ge katholou peri tês
zêtoumenês dynamêôs kai tôn anomoiôn endeixomenôn, all' hôs hin' hama tô koinô
kai to idion eph' hêmôn autôn egnôkotes eis te tas diagnôseis tôn nosêmatôn kai tas
iaseis euporôteroi gignômetha.

Pg 228
[Greek text](#)

Peri men oun amphoterôn tôn organôn hama legein adynaton, en merei d' hyper
hekaterou poiêsometha ton logon apo tou saphesteron endeixasthai dynamenou tèn
kathektikên dynamin arxamenoi. katechei men gar kai hê gastêr ta sitia, mechri per
an ekpepsê, katechousi de kai hai mêtrai to embryon, est' an teleiôsôs; alla
pollaplasios estin ho tês tôn embryôn teleiôseôs chronos tês tôn sitiôn pepseôs.

III

Eikos oun kai tèn dynamin enargesteron en tais mêtrais phôrasein hêmas tèn
kathektikên, hosô kai polychroniôteran tês gastros tèn energieian kektêtai. mêsi gar
148 ennea pou tais pleistais tôn gynaikôn en autais teleioutai ta kyêmata, memykuias
men hapanti tô aucheni, periechousais de pantachothern auta syn tô chorio. || kai
peras ge tês tou stomatos myseôs kai tês tou kyoumenou kata tas mêtras monês hê

chreia tês energieas estin; ou gar hôs etychen oud' alogôs hikanas peristellesthai kai katechein to embryon hê physis apeirgasato tas hysteras, all' hin' eis to prepon aphikêtai megethos to kyoudenon. hotan oun, hou charin enêrgoun tê kathektikê dynamei, sympeplêrômenon ê, tautên men anepausan te kai eis êremian epanêgagon, ant' autês d' hetera chrôntai tê teôs hêsychazousê, tê proôstikê. ên d' ara kai tês ekeinês hêsychias horos hê chreia kai tês g' energieas hôsautôs hê chreia; kalousês men gar autês energie, mê kalousês d' hêsychazei.

Pg 230
[Greek text](#)

149 Kai chrê palin kantautha katamathein tês physeôs tên technên, hôs ou monon energieôn chrêsimôn dynameis enethêken hekastô tôn organôn, alla kai tou tôn hêsychiôn te kai kinêseôn kairou prounoêsato. kalôs men gar hapantôn gignomenôn tôn kata tên kyêsîn hê apokritikê dynamis hêsychazei teleôs hôsper ouk ousa, kakopragias de tinos genomenês ê peri to chorion ê peri tina tôn allôn || hymenôn ê peri to kyoudenon auto kai tês teleiôseôs autou pantapasin apognôstheisês ouket' anamenousi ton enneamênon hai mêtrai chronon, all' hê men kathektikê dynamis autika dê pepautai kai parachôrei kineisthai tê proteron argousê, prattei d' êdê ti kai pragmateuetai chrêston hê apokritikê te kai proôstikê; kai gar oun kai tautên houtôs ekalesan apo tôn energieôn autê ta onomata themenoi kathaper kai tais allais.

150 Kai pôs ho logos eoiken hyper amphoterôn apodeixein hama; kai gar toi kai diadechomenas autas allêlas kai parachôrousan aei tên heteran tê loipê, kathoti an hê chreia keleuê, kai tên didaskalian koinên ouk apeikos esti dechesthai. tês men oun kathektikês dynamêos ergon peristeilai tas mêtras tô kyoudenô pantachothern, hôst' eulogôs haptomenais men tais maieutricais to stoma memykos autôn phainetai, tais kyousais d' autais kata tas prôtas hêmeras kai malista kat' autên ekeinên, en hêper an hê tês gonês syllêpsis genêtai, kinoumenôn te kai syntrechousôn eis heautas tôn hysterôn aisthê||sis gignetai kai ên amphô tauta symbê, mysai men to stoma chôris phlegmonês ê tinos allou pathêmatos, aisthêsîn de tês kata tas mêtras kinêseôs akolouthêsai, pros hautas êdê to sperma to para tandros eilêphenai te kai katechein hai gynaiques nomizousi.

Pg 232
[Greek text](#)

Tauta d' ouch hêmeis nyn anaplattomen hêmin autois, all' ek makras peiras dokimasthenta pasi gegraptai schedon ti tois peri toutôn pragmateusamenois. Hêrophilos men ge kai hôs oude pyrêna mêlês an dechoito tôn mêtrôn to stoma, prin apokyein tên gynaike, kai hôs oude toulachiston eti diestêken, ên hyparxêtai kyein, kai hôs epi pleon anastomountai kata tas tôn epimêniôn phoras, ouk ôknêse graphein; synomologousi d' autô kai hoi alloi pantes hoi peri toutôn pragmateusamenoi kai prôtos g' hapantôn iatrôn te kai philosophôn Hippokratês apephênato myein to stoma tôn hysterôn en te tais kyêsesi kai tais phlegmonais, all' en men tais kyêsesin ouk existamenon tês physeôs, en de tais phlegmonais sklêron gignomenon.

151 Epi de ge tês enantias tês ekkritikês anoignytai men to stoma, proerchetai d' ho pythmên || hapas hoson hoion t' engytatô tou stomatos apôthoumenos exô to embryon, hama d' autô kai ta synechê merê ta hoion pleura tou pantos organou synepilambanomena tou ergou thlibei te kai proôthei pan exô to embryon. kai pollais tôn gynaikôn ôdines biaioi tas mêtras holas ekpesein ênankasan ametrôs chrêsamenais tê toiautê dynamei, paraplêsiou tinos gignomenou tô pollakis en palais tisi kai philoneikiais symbainonti, hotan anatrepσαι te kai katabalein heterous speudontes autoi synkatapesômen. houtô gar kai hai mêtrai to embryon ôthousai synexepeson eniote kai malisth', hotan hoi pros tên rhachin autôn syndesmoi chalaroi physei tynchanôsin ontas.

Pg 234
[Greek text](#)

152 Esti de kai touto thaumaston ti tês physeôs sophisma, to zôntos men tou kyêmatos akribôs pany memykenai to stoma tôn mêtrôn, apothanontos de parachrêma dianoiGESTHAI tosouton, hoson eis tên exodon autou diapherei. kai mentoi kai hai maiai tas tiktousas ouk euthys anistasin oud' epi ton diphron kathizousin, all' haptontai proteron anoigomenou tou stomatos || kata brachy kai prôton men, hôste ton mikron daktylon kathienai, diestêkenai phasin, epeit' êdê kai meizon kai kata brachy dê pynthanomenois hêmin apokrinontai to megethos tês diastaseôs epauxanomenon. hotan d' hikanon ê pros tên tou kyoudenou diodon, anistasin autas kai kathizousi kai prothymeisthai keleuousin apôsasthai to paidion. esti d' êdê touto to ergon, ho par' heautôn hai kyousai prostitheasin, ouketi tôn hysterôn, alla tôn kat' epigastriou myôn, hoi pros tên apopatêsîn te kai tên ourêsîn hêmin synergousin.

Pg 236
[Greek text](#)

IV

153 Houtô men epi tôn mêtrôn enargôs hai dyo phainontai dynameis, epi de tês gastros hôde. prôton men tois klydôsin, hoi dê kai pepisteuntai tois iatrois arrhôstou koilias einai symptômata kai kata logon pepisteuntai; eniote men gar elachista prosenênegmenôn ou gignontai peristellomenês akribôs autois tês gastros kai sphingousês pantachothern, eniote de mestê men hê gastêr estin, hoi kly||dônes d' hôs epi kenês exakouontai. kata physin men gar echousa kai chrômenê kalôs tê peristaltikê dynamei, kan oligon ê to periechomenon, hapan auto perilambanousa chôran oudemian apoleipei kenên, arrhôstousa de, kathoti an adynatêsê perilabein akribôs, entauth' eurychôrian tin' ergazomenê synchôrei tois periechomenois hygrois

kata tas tôn schêmatôn metallagas allot' allachose metarrheousi klydônas apotelein.

154 Eulogôs oun, hoti mêde pepsousin hikanôs, hoi en tôde tô symptômati genomenoï prosdokôsîn; ou gar endechetai pepsai kalôs arrhônston gastera. tois toioutois de kai mechri pleionos en autê phainetai paramenon to baros, hôs an kai bradyteron pettousi. kai mên thaumaseien an tis ep' autôn toutôn malista to polychronion tês en tê gastri diatribês ou tôn sitiôn monon alla kai tou pomatos; ou gar, hoper an oiêtheiê tis, hôs to tês gastros stoma to katô stenon hikanôs hyparchon ouden pariêsi prin akribôs leiôthênai, tout' aition ontôs esti. polla goun pollakis opôrôn osta megista katapinoussi || pampolloi kai tis daktylion chrysoun en tô stomati phylattôn akôn katepie kai allos tis nomisma kai allos allo ti sklêron kai dyskatergaston, all' homôs hapantes houtoi rhadiôs apepatêsan, ha katepion, oudenos autois akolouthêsantos symptômatos. ei de g' hê stenotês tou porou tês gastros aitia tou menein epi pleon ên tois atriptois sitiois, ouden an toutôn pote diechôrêsen. alla kai to ta pomat' autois en tê gastri paramenein epi pleiston hikanon apagein tèn hyponoian tou porou tês stenotêtos; holôs gar, eiper ên en tô kechylôsthai to thatton hypienai, ta te rhophêmat' an houtô kai to gala kai ho tês ptisanês chylos autika diexêei pasin. all' ouch hôt' echei; tois men gar asthenesin epi pleiston empei tauta kai klydônas ergazetai paramenonta kai thlibei kai barynei tèn gastera, tois d' ischyrois ou monon toutôn ouden symbainei, alla kai poly plêthos artôn kai kreôn hypochôrei tacheôs.

Pg 238
[Greek text](#)

155 Ou monon d' ek tou peritetasthai tèn gastera kai barynesthai || kai metarrhein allot' eis alla merê meta klydônos to paramenein epi pleon en autê pantôs tois houtôs echousi tekmerait' an tis alla kak tôn emetôn; enioi gar ou meta treis hôras ê tettaras alla nyktôn êdê mesôn pampollou metaxy chronou dielthontos epi tais prosphorais anêmesan akribôs hapanta ta edêdesmena.

Pg 240
[Greek text](#)

156 Kai men dê kai zôn hotioun emplêsas hygras trophês, hôsper hêmeis pollakis epi syôn epeirathêmen ex aleurôn meth' hydatos hoion kykeôna tina dontes autois, epeita meta treis pou kai tettaras hôras anatemontes, ei houtô kai sy praxeias, heurêseis eti kata tèn gastera ta edêdesmena; peras gar autois esti tês entautha monês ouch hê chylôsis, hên kai ektos eti ontôn mêchanêsasthai dynaton estin, all' hê pepsis, heteron ti tês chylôseôs ousa, kathaper haimatôsis te kai threpsis. hôs gar kakeina dedeiktai poiôtêtôn metabolê gignomena, ton auton tropon kai hê en tê gastri pepsis tôn sitiôn eis tèn oikeian esti tô trephomenô poiôtêta || metabolê kai hotan ge pepthê teleôs, anoignytai men tènikauta to katô stoma, diekpiptei d' autou ta sitia rhadiôs, ei kai plêthos ti meth' heautôn echonta tychoi lithôn ê ostôn ê gigartôn ê tinos allou chylôthênai mê dynamenou. kai soi tout' enestin epi zôou theasasthai stochasamenô ton kairon tês katô diexodou. kai men ge kai ei sphaleiês pote tou kairou kai mêden mêpô katô parerchoito pettomenôn eti kata tèn gastera tôn sitiôn, oud' houtôs akarpos hê anatomê soi genêsetai; theasê gar ep' autôn, hoper oligô prosthen elegomen, akribôs men memykota ton pylôron, hapasan de tèn gastera periestalmenên tois sitiois tropon homoiotaton, hoionper kai hai mêtrai tois kyoumenois. ou gar estin oudepote kenên heurein chôran oute kata tas hysteras oute kata tèn koilian oute kata tas kysteis amphoterâs oute kata tèn cholêdochon onomazomenên oute tèn heteran; all' eit' oligon eiê to periechomenon en autais eite poly, mestai kai plêreis autôn hai koiliai phainontai peristellomenôn aei tôn chitônôn tois periechomenois, hotan ge kata physin echê to zôn. ||

Pg 242
[Greek text](#)

157 Erasistratos d' ouk oid' hopôs tèn peristolên tês gastros hapantôn aitian apophainei kai tês leiôseôs tôn sitiôn kai tês tôn perittômatôn hypochôrêseôs kai tês tôn kechylômenôn anadoseôs.

Egô men gar myriakis epi zôntos eti tou zôou dielôn to peritonaion heuron aei ta men entera panta peristellomena tois enyparchousi, tèn koilian d' ouch haplôs, all' epi men tais edôdais anôthen te kai katôthen auta kai pantachotheren akribôs perieilêphuian akinêton, hôs dokein hênôsthai kai peripephykenai tois sitiois; en de toutô kai ton pylôron heuriskon aei memykota kai kekleisimenon akribôs hôsper to tôn hystêrôn stoma tais enkymosin.

Pg 244
[Greek text](#)

Epi mentoi tais pepsesi sympeplêrômenais aneôkto men ho pylôros, hê gastêr de peristaltikôs ekineito paraplêsiôs tois enterois.

V

158 Hapant' oun allêlois homologei tauta kai tê gastri kai tais hysterais kai tais kystesin einai tinas emphytous dynameis kathektikas men tôn oikeiôn poiôtêtôn, || apokritikas de tôn allotriôn. hoti men gar helkei tèn cholên eis heautên hê epi tô hêpati kystis, emprosthen dedeiktai, hoti de kai apokrinei kath' hekastên hêmeran eis tèn gastera, kai tout' enargôs phainetai. kai mên ei diedecheto tèn helktikên dynamin hê ekkritikê kai mê mesê tis amphoin ên hê kathektikê, dia pantos echrên anatemnomenôn tôn zôn ison plêthos cholês heuriskesthai kata tèn kystin; ou mên heurisketai ge. pote men gar plêrestatê, pote de kenotatê, pote de tas en tô metaxy diaphoras echousa theôreitai, kathaper kai hê hetera kystis hê to ouron hypodechomenê. tautês men ge kai pro tês anatomês aisthanometha, prin aniathênai tô plêthei baryntheisan ê tê drimytêti dêchtheisan, athroizousês eti to ouron, hôs ousês tinos kantautha

Pg 246
[Greek text](#)

dynameôs kathektikês.

159 Houtô de kai hê gastêr hypo drimytêtos pollakis dêchtheisa prôiaiteron tou deontos apepton eti tèn trophên apotribetai. authis d' an pote tô plêthei baryntheisa ê kai kat' amphô synelthonta kakôs diatetheisa diarrhoiais healô. kai men ge kai hoi emetoi, tô plêthei baryntheisês || autês ê tèn poiôtêta tòn en autê sitiôn te kai perittômatôn mê pherousês, analogon ti tais diarrhoiais pathêma tês anô gastros estin. hotan men gar en tois katô meresin autês hê toiauté genêtai diathesis, errhômênôn tòn kata ton stomachon, eis diarrhoias eteleutêsen, hotan d' en tois kata to stoma, tòn allôn eurôstountôn, eis emetous.

VI

Enesti de kai touto pollakis enargôs idein epi tòn apositôn; anankazomenoi gar esthiein oute katapinein eusthenousin out', ei kai biasainto, katechousin, all' euthys anemousi. kai hoi allôs de tòn edesmatôn pros hotioun dyscherainontes biasthentes eniote prosarasthai tacheôs exemousin, ê ei kataschoien biasamenoï, nautiôdeis t' eisi kai tês gastros hyptias aisthanontai kai pseudousês apothesthai to lypoun.

160 Houtôs ex hapantôn tòn phainomenôn, hoper ex archês errhethê, martyreitai to dein hyparchein tois tou zôou moriois schedon hapasin ephesin men tina kai hoion orexin tês oikeias poiôtêtos, apostrophên de tina || kai hoion misos ti tês allotrias, all' ephiemena men helkein eulogon, apostrephomena d' ekkrinein.

Pg 248
[Greek text](#)

Kak toutôn palin hê th' helktikê dynamis apodeiknytai kath' hapan hyparchousa kai hê proôstikê.

All' eiper ephesis te tis esti kai helxis, eiê an tis kai apolausis; ouden gar tòn ontôn helkei ti di' auto to helkein, all' hin' apolausê tou dia tês holkês euporêthentos. kai mên apolauein ou dynatai mê kataschon. kan toutô palin hê kathektikê dynamis apodeiknytai tèn genesin anankaian echousa; saphôs gar ephietai men tòn oikeiôn poiôtêton hê gastêr, apostrephetai de tas allotrias.

All' eiper ephietai te kai helkei kai apolauei katechousa kai peristellomenê, eiê an ti kai peras autê tês apolausê kapi tôd' ho kairos êdê tês ekkritikês dynameôs energousês.

VII

161 All' ei kai katechei kai apolauei, katachrêtai pros ho pephyke. pephyke de tou prosêkontos heautê || kata poiôtêta kai oikeiou metalambanein; hôsth' helkei tòn sitiôn hoson chrêstotaton atmôdôs te kai kata brachy kai touto tois heautês chitôsin enapotithetai te kai prostithêsîn. hotan d' hikanôs emplêsthê, kathaper achthos ti tèn loipên apotithetai trophên eschêkuian ti chrêston êdê kai autên ek tês pros tèn gastera koinônias; oude gar endechetai dyo sômata dran kai paschein epitêdeia synelthonta mê ouk êtoi paschein th' hama kai dran ê thateron men dran, thateron de paschein. ean men gar isazê tais dynamesin, ex isou drasei te kai peisetai, an d' hyperechê poly kai kratê thateron, energêsei peri to paschon; hôste drasei mega men ti kai aisthêton, auto d' êtoi smikron ti kai ouk aisthêton ê pantapasin ouden peisetai. all' en toutô dê kai malista diênênke pharmakou dêlêtêriou trophê; to men gar kratei tês en tô sômati dynameôs, hê de krateitai.

Pg 250
[Greek text](#)

162 Oukoun endechetai trophên men einai ti tô zôô prosêkousan, ou mên kai krateisthai g' homoiôs pros tòn || en tô zôô poiôtêton; to krateisthai d' ên alloiousthai. all' epei ta men ischyrotera tais dynamesin esti moria, ta d' asthenestera, kratêsei men panta tês oikeias tô zôô trophês, ouch homoiôs de panta; kratêsei d' ara kai hê gastêr kai alloiôsei men tèn trophên, ou mên homoiôs hêpati kai phlepsi kai artêriais kai kardia.

Poson oun estin, ho alloioi, kai dê theasômetha; pleon men ê kata to stoma, meion d' ê kata to hêpar te kai tas phlebas. hautê men gar hê alloiôsis eis haimatos ousian agei tèn trophên, hê d' en tô stomati methistêsi men autên enargôs eis heteron eidos, ou mên eis telos ge metakosmei. mathois d' an epi tòn enkataleiphthentôn tais diastasesi tòn odontôn sitiôn kai katameinantôn di' holês nyktos; oute gar artos akribôs ho artos oute kreas esti to kreas, all' ozei men toiouton, hoionper kai tou zôou to stoma, dialelytai de kai diatetêke kai tas en tô zôô tês sarkos apomemaktai poiôtêtas. enesti de soi theasasthai to megethos tês en tô stomati || tòn sitiôn alloiôseôs, ei pyrous masêsamenos epitheisês apeptoï dothiêsîn; opsei gar autous tachista metaballontas te kai sympettontas, ouden toiouton, hotan hydati phyrathôsin, ergasasthai dynamenous. kai mê thaumasês; to gar toi phlegma touti to kata to stoma kai leichênôn estin akos kai skorpious anaïrei parachrêma kai polla tòn iobolôn thêriôn ta men eutheôs apokteinei, ta d' es hysteron; hapanta goun blapteï megalôs. alla ta memasêmena sitia prôton men toutô tô phlegmati bebrektai te kai pephyratai, deuteron de kai tô chrôti tou stomatos hapanta peplêsiaken, hôste pleiona metabolên eilêphe tòn en tais kenais chôrais tòn odontôn esphênômenôn.

Pg 252
[Greek text](#)

163 All' hoson ta memasêmena toutôn epi pleon êlloiôtai, tosouton ekeinôn ta katapothenta. mê gar oude parablêton ê to tês hyperbolês, ei to kata tèn koilian

Pg 254

164 ennoêsaimen phlegma kai cholên kai pneuma kai thermasian kai holên tèn ousian tês gastros. ei de kai synepinoêsais autê ta parakeimena || splanchna kathaper tini lebêti megalô pyros hestias pollas, ek dexiôn men to hêpar, ex aristerôn de ton splêna, tèn kardian d' ek tôn anô, syn autê de kai tas phrenas aiôroumenas te kai dia pantos kinoumenas, eph' hapasi de toutois skepon to epiploon, exaision tina peisthêsê tèn alloiôsin gignesthai tôn eis tèn gastera katapothentôn sitiôn. [Greek text](#)

165 Pôs d' an êdynato rhadiôs haimatousthai mê preparaskeuasthenta tê toiauté metabolê? dedeiktai gar oun kai prosthen, hôs ouden eis tèn enantian athroôs methistatai poiôtêta. pôs oun ho artos haima gignetai, pôs de to teutlon ê ho kyamos ê ti tôn allôn, ei mê proteron tin' heteran alloiôsin edexato? pôs d' hê kopros en tois leptois enterois athroôs gennêthêsetai? ti gar en toutois sphodroteron eis alloiôsin esti tôn kata tèn gastera? potera tôn chitônôn to plêthos ê tôn geitniônôn splanchnôn hê perithesis ê tês monês ho chronos ê symphytos tis en tois organois thermasia? kai mên kat' ouden toutôn pleonektei ta entera tês gastros. ti pot' oun en men tê gastri nyktos || holês pollakis meinanta ton arton eti phylattesthai Boulontai tas archaias diasôzonta poiôtêtas, epeidan d' hapax empesê tois enterois, euthys gignesthai kopron? ei men gar ho tosoutos chronos adynatos alloioun, oud' ho brachys hikanos; ei d' houtos autarkês, pôs ou poly mallon ho makros? ar' oun alloioutai men hê trophê kata tèn koilian, allên de tin' alloiôsin kai ouch hoian ek tês physeôs ischei tou metaballontos organou? ê tautên men, ou mên tèn g' oikeian tô tou zôou sômati? makrô tout' adynatôteron esti. kai mên ouk allo g' ên hê pepsis ê alloiôsis eis tèn oikeian tou trephomenou poiôtêta. eiper oun hê pepsis tout' esti kai hê trophê kata tèn gastera dedeiktai dechomenê poiôtêta tô mellonti pros autês threpsesthai zôô prosêkousan, hikanôs apodeideiktai to pettesthai kata tèn gastera tèn trophên.

166 Kai geloios men Asklepiadês out' en tais erygais legôn emphainesthai pote tèn poiôtêta tôn pephtentôn sitiôn out' en tois emetois out' en tais ana||tomais; auto gar dê to tou sômatos exozein auta tês koilias esti to pepephthai. ho d' houtôs estin euêthês, hôst', epeidê tôn palaiôn akouei legontôn epi to chrêston en tê gastri metaballein ta sitia, dokimazei zêtein ou to kata dynamin alla to kata geusin chrêston, hôsper ê tou mêlou mêlôdesterou—chrê gar houtôs autô dialegesthai—gignomenou kata tèn koilian ê tou melitos melitôdesterou.

Poly d' euêthesteros esti kai geloioteros ho Erasistratos ê mê noôn, hopôs eirêtai pros tôn palaiôn hê pepsis hepsêsei paraplêsios hyparchein, ê hekôn sophizomenos heauton. hepsêsei men oun, phêsin, houtôs elaphran echousan thermasian ouk eikos einai paraplêsian tèn pepsin, hôsper ê tèn Aitnên deon hypotheinai tê gastri ê allôs autês alloiôsai ta sitia mê dynamenês ê dynamenês men alloioun, ou kata tèn emphyton de thermasian, hygran ousan dêlonoti kai dia tout' hepsein ouk optan eirêmenên.

167 Echrên d' auton, eiper peri pragmatôn antilegein ebouleto, peirathênai deixai malista men kai || prôton, hôs oude metaballei tèn archên oud' alloioutai kata poiôtêta pros tês gastros ta sitia, deuteron d', eiper mê hoios t' ên touto pistôsasthai, to tèn alloiôsin autôn achrêston einai tô zôô; ei de mêde tout' eiche diaballein, exelenxai tèn peri tas drastikas archas hypolêpsin kai deixai tas energeias en tois moriois ou dia tèn ek thermou kai psychrou kai xêrou kai hygrou poian krasin hyparchein alla di' allo ti; ei de mêde tout' etolma diaballein, all' hoti ge mê to thermon estin en tois hypo physeôs dioikoumenois to tôn allôn drastikôtaton. ê ei mête touto mête tôn allôn ti tôn emprosthen eichen apodeiknynai, mê lêrein onomati prospalaionta matên, hôsper ou saphôs Aristotelous en t' allois pollois kan tô tetartô tôn meteôrologikôn hopôs hê pepsis hepsêsei paraplêsios einai legetai, kai hoti mê prôtôs mêde kyriôs onomazontôn, eirêkotos.

168 All', hôs êdê lelektai pollakis, archê toutôn hapantôn esti mia to peri thermou kai psychrou kai xêrou kai hygrou diaskepsasthai, kathaper Aristotelês epoiêsen en tô deuterô peri geneseôs kai phthoras, apo||deixas hapasas tas kata ta sômata metabolas kai alloiôseis hypo toutôn gignesthai. all' Erasistratos oute toutois out' allô tini tôn proeirêmenôn anteipôn epi tounoma monon etrapeto tês hepsêseôs.

VIII

Epi men oun tês pepseôs, ei kai talla panta parelipse, to goun hoti diapherei tês ektos hepsêseôs hê en tois zôois pepsis, epeirathê deiknynai, peri de tês kataposeôs oud' achri tosoutou. ti gar phêsin?

“Holkê men oun tês koilias oudemia phainetai einai.”

Kai mên dyo chitônas hê gastêr echei pantôs heneka tou gegonotas kai diêkousin houtoi mechri tou stomatos, ho men endon, hoios esti kata tèn gastera, toioutos diamenôn, ho d' heteros epi to sarkôdesteron en tô stomachô trepomenos. hoti men oun enantias allêlais tas epibolas tôn inôn echousin hoi chitônes houtoi, to phainomenon auto martyrei. tinos d' heneka toioutoi gegonasin, Erasistratos men oud' epecheirêsen eipein, hêmeis d' eroumen.

Pg 262
[Greek text](#)

169 Ho men endon eutheias echei tas inas, holkês gar heneka ge||gonen; ho d' exôthen enkarsias hyper tou kata kyklon peristellesthai; hekastô gar tôn kinoumenôn organôn en tois sômasi kata tas tôn inôn theseis hai kinêseis eisin. ep' autôn de prôton tôn myôn, ei boulei, basanison ton logon, eph' hôn kai hai ines enargestatai kai hai kinêseis autôn horôntai dia sphodrotêta. meta de tous mys epi ta physika tôn organôn ithi kai pant' opsei kata tas inas kinoumena kai dia touth' hekastô men tôn enterôn strongylai kath' hekateron tôn chitônôn hai ines eisi; peristellontai gar monon, helkousi d' ouden. hê gastêr de tôn inôn tas men eutheias echei charin holkês, tas d' enkarsias heneka peristolês; hôsper gar en tois mysin hekastês tôn inôn teinomenês te kai pros tèn archên helkomenês hai kinêseis gignontai, kata ton auton logon kan tê gastri; tôn men oun enkarsiôn inôn teinomenôn elatton anankê gignesthai to euros tês periechomenês hyp' autôn koilotêtos, tôn d' eutheîôn helkomenôn te kai eis

170 heautas synagomenôn ouk endechetai mê ou synaireisthai to mêkos. alla mên || enargôs ge phainetai katapinontôn synairoumenon kai tosouton ho larynx anatrechôn, hoson ho stomachos kataspatai, kai hotan ge symplêrôtheisês tês en tô katapinein energieas aphethê tês taseôs ho stomachos, enargôs palin phainetai katapheromenos ho larynx; ho gar endon chitôn tês gastros ho tas eutheias inas echôn ho kai ton stomachon hypaleiphôn kai to stoma tois entos meresin epekteinetai tou laryngos, hôst' ouk endechetai kataspômenon auton hypo tês koilias mê ou synepispasthai kai ton larynga.

Pg 264
[Greek text](#)

Hoti d' hai periphereis ines, hais peristelletai ta t' alla moria kai hê gastêr, ou synairousi to mêkos, alla systellousi kai stenousi tèn eurytêta, kai par' autou labein estin homologoumenon Erasistratou; peristellesthai gar phêsi tois sitiois tèn gastera kata ton tês pepseôs hapanta chronon. all' ei peristelletai men, ouden de tou mêkous aphaireitai tês koilias, ouk esti tês peristaltikês kinêseôs idion to kataspan katô ton stomachon. hoper gar autos ho Erasistratos eipe, touto monon auto symbêsetai to tôn anô systel||lomenôn diastellesthai ta katô. touto d' hoti, kan eis nekrou ton stomachon hydatos encheês, phainetai gignomenon, oudeis agnoei. tais gar tôn hylôn dia stenou sômatos hodoiporiais akolouthon esti to symptôma; thaumaston gar, ei dierchomenou tinos auton onkou mê diastalêsetai. oukoun to men tôn anô systellomenôn diastellesthai ta katô koinon esti kai tois nekrois sômasi, di' hôn hopôsoun ti diexerchetai, kai tois zôsin, eite peristelloito tois dierchomenois eith' helkoito.

171

Pg 266
[Greek text](#)

To de tês tou mêkous synaireseôs idion tôn tas eutheias inas echontôn organôn, hin' epispasôntai ti. alla mên edeichthê kataspômenos ho stomachos, ou gar an heilke ton larynga; dêlon oun, hês hê gastêr helkei ta sitia dia tou stomachou.

Kai hê kata ton emeton de tôn emoumenôn achri tou stomatos phora pantôs men pou kai autê ta men hypo tôn anapheromenôn diateinomena merê tou stomachou diestôta kektêtai, tôn prosô d' ho ti an hekastot' epilambanêtai, tout' archomenon diastelletai, to d' || opisthen kataleipei dêlonoti systellomenon, hôsth' homoian einai pantê tèn diathesin tou stomachou kata ge touto tê tôn katapinontôn; alla tês holkês mê parousês to mêkos holon ison en tois toioutois symptômasi diaphylattetai.

172

Dia touto de kai katapinein rhaon estin ê emein, hoti katapinetai men amphoin tês gastros tôn chitônôn energountôn, tou men entos helkontos, tou d' ektos peristellomenou te kai synepôthountos, emeitai de thaterou monou tou exôthen energountos, oudenos helkontos eis to stoma. ou gar dê hôsper hê tês gastros orexis proêgeito tou katapinein ta sitia, ton auton tropon kan tois emetois epithymeî ti tôn kata to stoma moriôn tou gignomenou pathêmatos, all' amphô tês gastros autês eisin enantiai diatheseis, oregomenês men kai prosiemenês ta chrêsima te kai oikeia, dyscherainousês de kai apotribomenês ta allotria. dio kai to katapinein auto tois men hikanôs oregomenois tôn oikeiôn edesmatôn tê gastri tachista gignetai, saphôs helkousês auta kai kataspôsês prin ê masêthênai, tois d' êtoi pharmakon ti kat' anan||kên pinousin ê sition en chôra pharmakou prosperomenois aniaira kai mogis hê kataposis autôn epiteleitai.

173

Pg 268
[Greek text](#)

Dêlos oun estin ek tôn eirêmenôn ho men endon chitôn tês gastros ho tas eutheias echôn inas tês ek tou stomatos eis autên holkês heneka gegonôs kai dia tout' en tais kataposei monais energôn, ho d' exôthen ho tas enkarsias echôn heneka men tou peristellesthai tois enyparchousi kai proôthein auta toioutos apotelesstheis, energôn d' ouden hêtton en tois emetois ê tais kataposesin. enargestata de martyrei tô legomenô kai to kata tas channas te kai tous synodontas gignomenon; heurisketai gar eniote toutôn hê gastêr en tô stomati kathaper kai ho Aristotelês en tais peri zôn egrapsen historiais kai prostithêsi ge tèn aitian hypo laimargias autois touto symbainein phaskôn.

Pg 270
[Greek text](#)

Echei gar hôde; kata tas sphodroteras orexeis anô prostrechei pasi tois zôois hê gastêr, hôste tines tou pathous aisthêsîn enargê schontes exerpein hautois phasi tèn koilian, eniôn de masômenôn eti kai mêpô || kalôs en tô stomati ta sitia katergasamenôn exarpazei phanerôs akontôn. eph' hôn oun zôn physei laimargôn hyparchontôn hê t' eurychôria tou stomatos esti dapsilês hê te tês gastros thesis engys, hês epi synodontos te kai channês, ouden thaumaston, hotan hikanôs peinasanta diôkê ti tôn mikroterôn zôn, eit' êdê plêsion ê tou syllabein, anatrechein epeigousês tês epithymias eis to stoma tèn gastera. genesthai d' allôs amêchanon

174

touto mê ouch hôsper dia cheiros tou stomachou tês gastros episômenês eis heautên ta sitia. kathaper gar kai hêmeis hypo prothymias eniote tê cheiri synepekteinomen holous hêmas autous heneka tou thatton epidraxasthai tou prokeimenou sômatos, houtô kai hê gastêr hoion cheiri tô stomachô synepekteinetai. kai dia tout' eph' hôn zôon hama ta tria tauti synepesen, ephesis te sphodra tês trophês ho te stomachos mikros hê t' eurychôria tou stomatos dapsilês, epi toutôn oligê rhopê tês epektaseôs eis to stoma tèn koilian holên anapherei.

175 Êrkei men oun isôs andri physikô par' autês monês tês kataskeuês tôn orga||nôn tèn endeixin tês energeias lambanein. ou gar dê matên g' an hê physis ek dyoin chitônôn enantiôs allêlois echontôn apeirgasato ton oisophagon, ei mê kai diaphorôs hekateros autôn energein emellen. all' epei panta mallon ê ta tês physeôs erga diagignôskein hoi peri ton Erasistraton eisin hikanoi, phere kak tês tôn zôon anatomês epideixômen autois, hôs hekateros tôn chitônôn energei tèn eirêmenên energeian. ei dê ti labôn zôon, eita gymnôsas autou ta perikeimena tô stomachô sômata chôris tou diatemein tina tôn neurôn ê tôn artêriôn ê tôn phlebôn tôn autothi tetagmenôn ethelois apo tês genyos heôs tou thôrakos eutheiais tomais dielein ton exô chitôna ton tas enkarsias inas echonta kapeita tô zôo trophên prosenenkois, opsei katapinon auto kaitoi tês peristaltikês energeias apolôluais. ei d' au palin eph' heterou zôou diatemois amphoterous tous chitônas tomais enkarsiais, theasê kai touto katapinon ouket' energountos tou entos. hô dêlon, hoti kai dia thaterou men autôn katapinein hoion t' 176 estin, || alla cheiron ê di' amphoterôn. pros gar au tois allois kai tout' esti theasasthai saphôs epi tês eirêmenês anatomês, hôs en tô katapinein hypopimplatai pneumatous ho stomachos tou synkatapinomenou tois sitiois, ho peristellomenou men tou exôthen chitônos ôtheitai rhadiôs eis tèn gastera syn tois edesmasi, monou de tou endon hyparchontos empodôn histatai tê phora tôn sitiôn diateinon t' auton kai tèn energeian empodizon.

Pg 272
[Greek text](#)

Pg 274
[Greek text](#)

All' oute toutôn ouden Erasistratos eipen outh' hôs hê skolia thesis tou stomachou diaballei saphôs to dogma tôn nomizontôn hypo tês anôthen bolês monês podêgoumena mechri tês gastros ienai ta katapinomena. monon d' hoti polla tôn makrotrachêlôn zôon epikekyphota katapinei, kalôs eipen. hô dêlon, hoti to phainomenon ou to pôs katapinomen apodeiknysin, alla to pôs ou katapinomen; hoti gar mê dia monês tês anôthen bolês, ek toutou dêlon; ou mên eith' helkousês tês 177 koilias eite paragontos auta tou stomachou, dêlon êdê pô. all' hêmeis ge || pantas tous logismous eipontes tous t' ek tês kataskeuês tôn organôn hormômenous kai tous apo tôn allôn symptômatôn tôn te pro tou gymnôthênai ton stomachon kai gymnôthentos, hôs oligô prosthen elegomen, hikanôs enedeixametha tou men helkein heneka ton entos chitôna, tou d' apôthein ton ektos gegonenai.

Prouthemetha men oun apodeixai tèn kathektikên dynamin en hekastô tôn organôn ousan, hôsper en tô prosthen logô tèn helktikên te kai proseti tèn alloiôtikên. hypo de tês akolouthias tou logou tas tettaras apedeixamen hyparchousas tê gastri, tèn helktikên men en tô katapinein, tèn kathektikên d' en tô pettein, tèn apôstikên d' en tois emetois kai tais tôn pepemmenôn sitiôn eis to lepton enteron hypochôrêsesin, autên de tèn pepsin alloiôsin hyparchein.

Pg 276
[Greek text](#)

IX

Oukoun et' aporôsomen oude peri tou splênos, ei helkei men to oikeion, apokrinei de to allotrion, alloioun de kai katechein, hoson an epispasêtai, pephyken, oude peri 178 hêpatos ê phlebos ê artêrias ê kardias ê tôn || allôn tinos; anankaiai gar edeichthêsan hai tettaras hautai dynameis hapanti moriô tô mellonti threpsesthai kai dia tout' autas hypêretidas einai threpseôs ephamen; hôs gar to tôn anthrôpôn apopatêma tois kysin hêdiston, houtô kai ta tou hêpatos perittômata to men tô splêni, to de tê cholêdochô kystei, to de tois nephrois oikeion.

X

Kai legein eti peri tês toutôn geneseôs ouk an etheloimi meth' Hippokratên kai Platôna kai Aristotelên kai Dioklea kai Praxagoran kai Philotimon; oude gar oude peri 179 tôn dynamêôn eipon an, ei tis tôn emprosthen akribôs exeirgasato ton hyper autôn logon.

Epei d' hoi men palaioi kalôs hyper autôn apophênamenoi parelipon agôniasasthai tô logô, mêd' hyponoêsantes esesthai tinas eis tosouton anaischyntous sophistas, hôs antilegein epicheirêsai tois enargesin, hoi neôteroi de to men ti nikêthentes hypo tôn sophismatôn epeisthêsan autois, to de ti kai antilegein epicheirêsantes apodein moi poly tês tôn palaiôn edoxan dynamêôs, || dia touth', hôs an ekeinôn autôn, eiper et' 179 ên tis, agôniasasthai moi dokei pros tous anatrepontas tês technês ta kallista, kai autos houtôs epeirathên syntheinai tous logous.

Pg 278
[Greek text](#)

Hoti d' ê ouden ê pantapasin anysô ti smikron, ouk agnoô; pampolla gar heuriskô teleôs men apodedeigmena tois palaiois, oute de syneta tois pollois tôn nyn di' amathian all' oud' epicheiroumena gignôskesthai dia rhathymian, out', ei kai gnôstheî tini, dikaiôs exetazomena.

Chrê gar ton mellonta gnôsesthai ti tôn pollôn ameionon euthys men kai tê physei kai tê prôtê didaskalia poly tôn allôn dienenkein; epeidan de genêtai meirakion, alêtheias tina schein erôtikên manian, hôsper enthousiônta kai mêth' hêméras mête nyktos dialeipein speudonta te kai syntetamenon ekmathein, hosa tois endoxotatois eirêtai tôn palaiôn; epeidan d' ekmathê, krinein auta kai basanizein chronô pampollô kai skopein, posa men homologei tois enargôs phainomenois, posa de diapheretai, || kai houtô ta men haireisthai, ta d' apostrophesthai. tô men dê toioutô pany sphodra chrêsimos êlpika tous hêmeterous esesthai logous; eien d' an oligoi pantapasin houtoi; tois d' allois houtô genêsetai to gramma peritton, hôs ei kai mython onô tis legoi.

Pg 280
[Greek text](#)

XI

Symperanteon oun hêmin ton logon heneka tôn tês alêtheias ephiemenôn hosa leipei kat' auton eti prostheisin. hôs gar hê gastêr helkei men enargôs kai kataspa ta sitia tois sphodra peinôdesi, prin akribôs en tô stomati leiôthênai, dyscherainei de kai apôthetai tois apositois te kai pros anankên esthiousin, houtô kai tôn allôn organôn hekaston amphoteras echei tas dynameis, tèn te tôn oikeiôn helktikên kai tèn tôn allotriôn apokritikên. kai dia touto, kan ex henos ê chitônos organon ti synestôs, hôsper kai hai kysteis amphoterai kai hai mêtraï kai hai phlebes, amphotera tôn inôn echei ta genê, tôn eutheion te kai tôn enkarsion.

181 Kai men ge kai triton ti || genos inôn esti <tôn> loxôn, elatton poly tô plêthei tôn proeirêmenôn dyo genôn. heurisketai d' en men tois ek dyoin chitônôn synestêkosin organois en thaterô monô tais eutheiais isin anamemigmenon, en de tois ex henos hama tois allois dyo genesi. synepilambanousi d' hautai megiston tê tês kathektikês onomastheisês dynamêôs energeia; deitai gar en toutô tô chronô pantachothern esphinchthai kai peritetasthai tois enyparchousi to morion, hê men gastêr en tô tês pepsêôs, hai mêtraï d' en tô tês kyêseôs chronô panti.

Pg 282
[Greek text](#)

182 Taut' ara kai ho tês phlebos chitôn heis ôn ek polyeidôn inôn egeneto kai tôn tês artêrias ho men exôthen ek tôn strongylôn, ho d' esôthen ek men tôn eutheion pleistôn, oligôn de tinôn syn autais kai tôn loxôn, hôste tas men phlebas tais mêtraï kai tais kystesin eoikenai kata ge tèn tôn inôn synthesin, ei kai tô pachei leipontai, tas d' artêrias tês gastri. mona de pantôn organôn ek dyoin th' hama kai amphoterôn enkarsias echontôn tas inas egeneto ta entera. to d' hoti beltion ên || tôn t' allôn hekastô toioutô tèn physin hyparchein, hoionper kai nyn esti, tois t' enterois ek dyoin homoiôn chitônôn synkeisthai, tês peri chreias moriôn pragmateias estin. oukoun nyn chrê pothein akouein peri tôn toioutôn, hôsper oude dia ti peri tou plêthous tôn chitônôn hekastou tôn organôn diaphônêtai tois anatomikois andrasin. hyper men gar toutôn autarkôs en tois peri tês anatomikês diaphônias eirêtai; peri de tou dioti toiouton hekaston egeneto tôn organôn, en tois peri chreias moriôn eirêsetai.

XII

183 Nyni d' oudeteron toutôn prokeitai legein, alla tas physikas dynameis monas apodeiknyein en hekastô tôn organôn tettaras hyparchousas. epi tout' oun palin epanelthontes anamnêsômen te tôn emprosthen eirêmenôn epithômen te kephalên êdê tô logô panti to leipon eti prosthentes. epeidê gar hekaston tôn en tô zôo moriôn helkein eis heauto ton oikeion chymon apodedeiktai kai prôtê schedon hautê tôn physikôn esti dynamêôn, ephexês || ekeinô gnôsteon, hôs ou proteron apotribetai tèn helchtheisan <trophên> êtoi sympasan ê kai ti perittôma autês, prin an eis enantian metapesê diathesis ê auto to organon ê kai tôn periechomenôn en autô ta pleista. hê men oun gastêr, epeidan men hikanôs emplêsthê tôn sitiôn kai to chrêstotaton autôn eis tous heautês chitônas enapothêtai bdallousa, tènika' êdê to loipon apotribetai kathaper achthos allotrion; hai kysteis d', epeidan hekaston tôn helchthentôn ê tô plêthei diateinon ê tê poiôtêti daknon aniaron genêtai.

Pg 284
[Greek text](#)

184 Tô d' autô tropô kai hai mêtraï; êtoi gar, epeidan mêketi pherôsi diateinomenai, to lypoun apothesthai speudousin ê tê poiôtêti daknomenai tôn ekchythentôn eis autas hydrôn. hekateron de tôn eirêmenôn gignetai men kai biaiôs estin hote kai amblôskousi tènika' autai, gignetai d' hôs ta polla kai prosêkontôs, hoper ouk amblôskein all' apokyiskein te kai tiktein onomazetai. tois men oun amblôthridiois pharmakois ê tisin allois pathêmasi diaphthei||rousi to embryon ê tinas tôn hymenôn autou rhêgnyousin hai amblôseis hepontai, houtô de kapeidan aniathôsi poth' hai mêtraï kakôs echousai tê diatasei, tais de tôn embryôn autôn kinêsesi tais sphodrotatais hoi tokoi, kathaper kai touth' Hippokratei kalôs eirêtai. koinon d' hapasôn tôn diatheseôn hê ania kai tautês aition tritton ê onkos perittos ê ti baros ê dêxis; onkos men, epeidan mêketi pherôsi diateinomenai, baros d', epeidan hyper tèn rhômên autôn ê to periechomenon, dêxis d', epeidan êtoi ta proteron en tois hymesin hygra stegomena rhagentôn autôn eis autas ekchythê tas mêtras ê kai sympan apophtharen to kyêma sêpomenon te kai dialyomenon eis mochthêrous ichôras houtôs erethizê te kai daknê ton chitôna tôn hysterôn.

Pg 286
[Greek text](#)

Analogon oun en hapasi tois organois hekasta tôn t' ergôn autôn tôn physikôn kai

185 mentoi tôn pathêmatôn te kai nosêmatôn phainetai gignomena, ta men enargôs kai saphôs houtôs, hôs apodeixeôs deisthai mêden, ta d' hêtton men enargôs, ou mên agnôsta ge pantapasi tois || ethelousi prosechein ton noun.

186 Epi men oun tês gastros hai te dêxeis enargeis, dioti pleistês aisthêseôs metechei, ta t' alla pathêmata ta te nautian empoiounta kai hoi kaloumenoi kardiôgmoi saphôs endeiknyntai tèn apokritikên te kai apôstikên tôn allotriôn dynamin, houtô de kapi tôn hysterôn te kai tês kysteôs tês to ouron hypodechomenês; enargôs gar oun kai hautê phainetai mechri tosoutou to hygron hypodechomenê te kai athroizousa, achris an êtoi pros tou plêthous autou diateinomenê mêketi pherê tèn anian ê pros tês poiôtêtos daknomenê; chronizon gar hekaston tôn perittômatôn en tô sômati sêpetai dêlonoti, to men elattoni, to de pleioni chronô, kai houtô daknôdes te kai drimy kai aniaron tois periechousi gignetai. ou mên epi ge tês epi tô hêpati kysteôs homoiôs echei; hô dêlon, hoti neurôn hêkista metechei. chrê de kantautha ton ge physikon andra to analogon exeuriskein. ei gar helkein te ton oikeion apedeichthê chymon, hôs phainesthai pollakis mestên, apokri||nein te ton auton touton ouk eis makran, anankaion estin autên ê dia to plêthos barynomenên ê tês poiôtêtos metaballousês epi to daknôdes te kai drimy tês apokriseôs ephiesthai. ou gar dê ta men sitia tèn archaian hypallattei poiôtêta tacheôs houtôs, hôst', epeidan empesê tois leptois enterois, euthys einai kopron, hê cholê d' ou poly mallon ê to ouron, epeidan hapax ekpesê tôn phlebôn, exallattei tèn poiôtêta, tachista metaballonta kai sêpomena. kai mên eiper epi te tôn kata tas hysteras kai tèn koilian kai ta entera kai proseti tèn to ouron hypodechomenên kystin enargôs phainetai diatasis tis ê dêxis ê achthos epegeiron hekaston tôn organôn eis apokrisin, ouden chalepon kapi tês cholêdochou kysteôs tauto tout' ennoein epi te tôn allôn hapantôn organôn, ex hôn dêlonoti kai hai artêriai kai hai phlebes eisin.

Pg 288
[Greek text](#)

XIII

187 Ou mên oude to dia tou autou porou tèn th' holkên gignesthai kai tèn apokrisin en diapherousi || chronois ouden eti chalepon exeurein, ei ge kai tês gastros ho stomachos ou monon edesmata kai pomata paragôn eis autên, alla kan tais nautiais tèn enantian hypêresian hypêretôn enargôs phainetai, kai tês epi tô hêpati kysteôs ho auchên heis ôn hama men plêroi di' hautou tèn kystin, hama d' ekkenoi, kai tôn mêtrôn ho stomachos hôsautôs hodos estin eisô men tou spermatos, exô de tou kyêmatos.

Pg 290
[Greek text](#)

Alla kantautha palin hê men ekkritikê dynamis enargês, ou mên homoiôs g' autê saphês tois pollois hê helktikê; all' Hippokratês men arrhôtou mêtras aitiômenos auchena phêsi; "Ou gar dynatai auteês ho stomachos eirysai tèn gonên."

Erasistratos de kai Asklêpiadês eis tosouton hêkousi sophias, hôst' ou monon tèn koilian kai tas mêtras aposterousi tês toiautês dynameôs alla kai tèn epi tô hêpati kystin hama tois nephrois. kaitoi g' hoti mêd' eipein dynaton heteron aition ê ourôn ê cholês diakriseôs, en tô prôtô dedeiktai logô.

188 Kai mêtran oun kai gastera kai tèn epi tô hêpati kystin di' henos kai tautou sto||machou tèn th' holkên kai tèn apokrisin heuriskontes poioumenas mêketi thaumazômen, ei kai dia tôn phlebôn hê physis ekkrinei pollakis eis tèn gastera perittômata. toutou d' eti mallon ou chrê thaumazein, ei, di' hôn eis hêpar anedothê phlebôn ek gastros, authis eis autên ex hêpatos en tais makroterais asitiai helkesthai tis dynatai trophê. to gar tois toioutois apistein homoion esti dêpou tô mêketi pisteuein mêd' hoti ta kathaironta pharmaka dia tôn autôn stomatôn ex holou tou sômatos eis tèn gastera tous oikeious epispatai chymous, di' hôn emprosthen hê anadosis egeneto, all' hetera men zêtein anadoseôs, hetera de katharseôs stomata. kai mên eiper hen kai tauto stoma dittais hypêretei dynamesin, en diaphorois chronois eis tanantia tèn holkên poioumenais, emprosthen men tê kata to hêpar, en de tô tês katharseôs kairô tê tou pharmakou, ti thaumaston esti dittên hypêresian te kai chreian einai tais phlepsi tais en tô mesô tetagmenais hêpatos te kai tôn kata tèn koilian, hôsth', hopote men en toutois apththonos eiê periechomenê trophê, dia tôn eirêmenôn eis || hêpar anapheresthai phlebôn, hopote d' eiê kena kai deomena trephesthai, dia tôn autôn authis ex hêpatos helkesthai?

Pg 292
[Greek text](#)

189 Pan gar ek pantos helkein phainetai kai panti metadidonai kai mia tis einai syrrhoia kai sympnoia pantôn, kathaper kai touth' ho theiotatos Hippokratês eipen. helkei men oun to ischyroteron, ekkenoutai de to asthenesteron.

190 Ischyroteron de kai asthenesteron heteron heterou morion ê haplôs kai physei kai koinê pasin estin ê idiôs tôde tini gignetai. physei men kai koinê pasin anthrôpois th' hama kai zôois hê men kardia tou hêpatos, to d' hêpar tôn enterôn te kai tês gastros, hai d' artêriai tôn phlebôn helkysai te to chrêsimon heautais apokrinai te to mê toiouton ischyroterai. kath' hekaston d' hêmôn idiôs en men tôde tô kairô to hêpar ischyroteron helkein, hê gastêr d' en tôde. pollês men gar en tê koilia periechomenês trophês kai sphodrôs oregomenou te kai chrêzontos tou hêpatos, pantôs ischyroteron helkei to splanchnon; empalin de tou men hêpatos empeplêsmenou te kai dia||tetamenou, tês gastros d' oregomenês kai kenês hyparchousês hê tês holkês

Pg 294
[Greek text](#)

ischys eis ekeinên methistatai.

Hôs gar, ei kan tais chersi tina sitia katechontes allêlôn harpazoimen, ei men homoiôs eiêmen deomenoi, perigignesthai ton ischyroteron eikos, ei d' houtos men empeplêsmenos eiê kai dia tout' amelôs katechôn ta peritta ê kai tini metadounai pothôn, ho d' asthenesteros oregoito deinôs, ouden an eiê kôlyma tou mê panta labein auton, houtô kai hê gastêr ek tou hêpatos epispatai rhadiôs, hotan autê men hikanôs oregêtai trophês, empeplêsmenon d' ê to splanchnon. kai tou ge mê peinên eniote to zôon hê periousia tês en hêpati trophês aitia; kreittona gar echousa kai hetoimoteran hê gastêr trophên ouden deitai tês exôthen; ei de ge pote deoito men, aporoiê de, plêroutai perittômatôn. ichôres de tines eisi tauta cholôdeis te kai phlegmatôdeis kai orrhôdeis, hous monous helkousê methiêsin autê to hêpar, hotan pote kai autê deêtai trophês.

191 Hôspêr oun ex allêlôn helkei ta moria || trophên, houtô kai apotithetai pot' eis allêla to peritton kai hôspêr helkontôn epleonektei to ischyroteron, houtô kai apotithemenôn kai tôn ge kaloumenôn rheumatôn hêde hê prophasis. hekaston gar tôn moriôn echei tina tonon symphyton, hô diôtheitai to peritton. hotan oun hen ex autôn arrhôtoteron genêtai kata dê tina diathesin, ex hapantôn eis ekeino syrrhein anankê ta perittômata. to men gar ischyrotaton enapotithetai tois plêsion hapasin, ekeinôn d' au palin hekaston eis heter' atta tôn asthenesterôn, eit' authis ekeinôn hekaston eis alla kai tout' epi pleiston gignetai, mechri per an ex hapantôn elaunomenon to perittôma kath' hen ti meinê tôn asthenestatôn; enteuthen gar ouket' eis allo dynatai metarrhein, hôs an mête dechomenou tinos auto tôn ischyroterôn mêt' apôsasthai dynamenou tou peponthotos.

Pg 296
[Greek text](#)

192 Alla peri men tôn pathôn tês geneseôs kai tês iaseôs authis hêmôn epideiknytôn hikana kax ekeinôn estai labein martyria tôn en tôde tô logô panti || dedeigmenôn orthôs. ho d' en tô paronti deixai proukeito, palin analabômen, hôs ouden thaumaston ex hêpatos hêkein tina trophên enterois te kai gastri dia tôn autôn phlebôn, di' hôn emprosthen ex ekeinôn eis hêpar anedidoto. kai pollois athroôs te kai teleôs apostasin ischyron gymnasiôn ê ti kôlon apokopeisin haimatos dia tôn enterôn gignetai kenôsis ek tinôn periodôn, hôs pou kai Hippokratês elegen, ouden men allo lypousa, kathairousa d' oxêos to pan sôma kai tas plêsmonas ekkenousa, dia tôn autôn dêpou phlebôn tês phoras tôn perittôn epiteloumenês, di' hôn emprosthen hê anadosis egigneto.

Pg 298
[Greek text](#)

Pollakis d' en nosois hê physis dia men tôn autôn dêpou phlebôn to pan ekkathairei zôon, ou mên haimatôdês g' hê kenôsis autois, alla kata ton lypounta gignetai chymon. houtô de kan tais cholerais ekkenoutai to pan sôma dia tôn eis entera te kai gastera kathêkousôn phlebôn.

193 To d' oiesthai mian einai tais hylais phoran teleôs agnoountos esti tas physikas || dynameis tas t' allas kai tèn ekkritikên enantian ousan tê helktiktê; tais gar enantias dynamesin enantias kinêseis te kai phoras tôn hylôn anankaion akolouthein. hekaston gar tôn moriôn, hotan helkysê ton oikeion chymon, epeita kataschê kai apolausê, to peritton hapan apothesthai speudei, kathoti malista dynatai tachista th' hama kai kallista, kata tèn tou perittou rhopên.

Hothen hê gastêr ta men epipolazonta tôn perittômatôn emetois ekkathairei, ta d' hyphistamena diarrhoiais. kai to ge nautiôdes gignesthai to zôon tout' estin hormêsai tèn gastera kenôthênai di' emetou. houtô de dê ti biaion kai sphodron hê ekkritikê dynamis echei, hôst' en tois eileois, hotan apokleisthê teleôs hê katô diexodos, emetai kopros. kaitoi prin dielthein to te lepton enteron hapan kai tèn nêstin kai ton pylôron kai tèn gastera kai ton oisophagon ouch hoion te dia tou stomatos ekpesein ouden tooutô perittômati. ti dê thaumaston, ei kak tês eschatês epiphaneias tês kata to derma mechri tôn enterôn te kai tês gastros aphiknoito ti || metalambanomenon, hôs kai touth' Hippokratês hêmas edidaxen, ou pneuma monon ê perittôma phaskôn alla kai tèn trophên autên ek tês eschatês epiphaneias authis epi tèn archên, hothen anênechthê, katapheresthai. elachistai gar rhopai kinêseôn tèn ekkritikên tautên oiakizousi dynamin, hôs an dia tôn enkarsiôn men inôn gignomenên, ôkytata de diadidomenên apo tês kinêsasês archês epi ta katantikry perata. oukoun apeikos oud' adynaton aêthei pote psyxei to pros tô dermati morion exaiphnês pilêthen hama men arrhôtoteron auto genomenon, hama d' hoion achthos ti mallon ê paraskeuên threpseôs echon tèn emprosthen alypôs autô paresparmenên hygrotêta kai dia tout' apôtheasthai speudon, hama de tês exô phoras apoekleisimenês tê pyknôsei, pros tèn loipên epistraphênai kai houtô biasamenon eis to parakeimenon autô morion athroôs apôsasthai to peritton, ekeino d' au palin eis to met' auto, || kai touto mê pausasthai gignomenon, achris an hê metalêpsis epi ta entos perata tôn phlebôn teleutêsê.

Pg 300
[Greek text](#)

194 Hai men dê toiautai kinêseis thatton apopauontai, hai d' apo tôn endothen dierethizontôn, hôs en te tois kathairousi pharmakois kai tais cholerais ischyroterai te poly kai monimôterai gignontai kai diamenousin, est' an kai hê peri tois stomasi tôn angeiôn diathesis, hê to plêsion helkousa, paramenê. hautê men gar to syneches ekkenoi morion, ekeino d' au to met' auto kai tout' ou pauetai mechri tês eschatês epiphaneias, hôste diadidontôn tôn ephexês aei moriôn heterôn heterois to prôton pathos ôkytata diikneisthai mechri tôn eschatôn. houtôs oun echei kapi tôn eileôn.

Pg 302
[Greek text](#)

196 auto men gar to phlegmainon enteron oute tou barous oute tês drimytêtos anechetai tôn perittômatôn kai dia tout' ekkrinein auta speudei kai apôtheastai porrhôtatô. kôlyomenon de katô poieisthai tên diôsin, hotan entauthoi pote to sphodrotaton ê tês phlegmonês, eis ta plêsiazonta tôn hyperkeimenôn enterôn apôtheastai. kai houtôs êdê kata || to syneches tên rhopên tês ekkritikês dynamêos anô poiêsamenês achri tou stomatos epanerchetai ta perittômata.

197 Tauta men oun dê kan tois tôn nosêmatôn logismois epi pleon eirêsetai. to d' ek pantos eis pan pheresthai ti kai metalambanesthai kai mian hapantôn einai sympnoian te kai syrrhoian, hôs Hippokratês elegen, êdê moi dokô dedeichthai saphôs kai mêket' an tina, mêd' ei bradys autô nous eneiê, peri tôn toioutôn aporêsai mêdenos, hoion hopôs hê gastêr ê ta entera trephetai kai tina tropon ek tês eschatês epiphaneias eisô ti diikneitai. pantôn gar tôn moriôn helkein men to prosêkon te kai philion, apokrinein de to barynon ê daknon echontôn dynamin ouden thaumaston enantias synechôs gignesthai kinêseis en autois, hôsper epi te tês kardias horatai saphôs kai tôn artêriôn hapasôn kai tou thôrakos kai tou pneumonos. epi men ge toutôn hapantôn monon ou kath' hekastên kairou rhopên tas enantias kinêseis th' hama tôn organôn kai phoras tôn hylôn || enargôs estin idein gignomenas. eit' epi men tês tracheias artêrias ouk aporeis enallax pote men eisô paragousês eis ton pneumona to pneuma, pote d' exô, kai tôn kata tas rhinas porôn kai holou tou stomatos hôsautôs oud' einai soi dokei thaumaston oude paradoxon, ei, di' hou mikrô prosthen eisô parekomizeto to pneuma, dia toutou nyn ekpempetai, peri de tôn ex hêpatos eis entera te kai gastera kathêkousôn phlebôn aporeis kai soi thaumaston einai phainetai, dia tôn autôn anadidosthai th' hama tên trophên eis hêpar helkesthai t' ex ekeinou palin eis gastera? diorisaî dê to hama touto poterôs legeis. ei men gar kata ton auton chronon, oud' hêmeis touto ge phamen. hôsper gar eispneomen en heterô chronô kai authis palin en heterô antekpneomen, houtô kai trophên en heterô men chronô to hêpar ek tês gastros, en heterô d' hê gastêr ek tou hêpatos epispatai. ei d' hoti kath' hen kai tauto zôon hen organon enantiais phorais hylôn hypêretei, 198 touto soi bouletai dêloun to hama kai touto se tarattei, tên t' || eispnoên ide kai tên ekpnoên. pantôs pou kai hautai dia men tôn autôn organôn gignontai, tropô de kinêseôs te kai phoras tôn hylôn diapherousin.

Ho pneumôn men oun kai ho thôrax kai artêriai hai tracheiai kai hai leiai kai kardia kai stoma kai rhines en elachistais chronou rhopais eis enantias kinêseis auta te metaballei kai tas hylas methistêsin. hai d' ex hêpatos eis entera kai gastera kathêkousai phlebes ouk en houtô brachesi chronou moriois all' en pollais hêmerais hapax eniote tên enantian kinountai kinêsîn.

199 Echei gar hôde to sympan. hekaston tôn organôn eis heauto tên plêsiazousan epispatai trophên ekboskomenon autês hapasan tên chrêstên notida, mechris an hikanôs koresthê, kai tautên, hôs kai prosthen edeiknymen, enapotithetai heauto kai meta tauta prosphyei te kai homoioi, toutesti trephetai. diôristai gar hikanôs emprosthen heteron ti tês threpseôs ex anankês autês proêgoumenon hê prospheysis hyparchein, ekeinês d' eti proteron hê prosthesis. hôsper oun || tois zôois autois horos esti tês edôdês to plêrôsaî tên gastera, kata ton auton tropon hekastô tôn moriôn horos esti tês prosthesêos hê plêrôsis tês oikeias hygrotêtos. epei toinyn hapan morion tê gastri homoiôs oregetai trephesthai, kai periptyssetai tê trophê kai houtô sphingei pantachothern autên hôs hê gastêr. hepetai d' ex anankês toutô, kathaper kai prosthen errhethê, to pettesthai tois sitiois, tês gastros ou dia touto peristellomenês autois, hin' epitêdeia tois allois ergasêtai moriois; houtô gar an ouketi physikon organon alla zôon ti gignoito logismon te kai noun echon, hôs haireisthai to beltion.

200 All' hautê men peristelletai tô to pan sôma dynamin helktikên tina kai apolaustikên kektêsthai tôn oikeiôn poiotêtôn, hôs emprosthen edeiknyto; symbainei d' en toutô tois sitiois alloiousthai. kai mentoi kai plêrôtheisa tês ex autôn hygrotêtos kai korestheisa pros hêgeitai to loipon auta. to peritton oun euthys apotribetai te kai ôthei katô pros || heteron ergon autê trepomenê, tên prospheysin. en de toutô tô chronô dierchomenê to enteron hapan hê trophê dia tôn eis auto kathêkontôn angeiôn anarpazetai, pleistê men eis tas phlebas, oligê de tis eis tas artêrias, hôs mikron hysteron apodeixomen. en toutô d' au tô chronô kai tois tôn enterôn chitôsi prostithetai.

Kai moi temôn êdê tô logismô tên tês trophês oikonomian hapasan eis treis moiras chronôn, en men tê prôtê noei menousan th' hama kata tên koilian autên kai pettomenên kai prostithemenên eis koron tê gastri kai ti kai tô hêpati par' autês anapheromenon.

En de tê deuthera, dierchomenên ta t' entera kai prostithemenên eis koron autois te toutois kai tô hêpati kai ti brachy meros autês pantê tou sômatos pheromenon; en de dê toutô tô kairô to prostethen en tô prôtô chronô prospheysthai noei tê gastri.

201 Kata de tên tritên moiran tou chronou trephesthai men êdê tên koilian homoiôsan hautê teleôs ta prospheynta, prospheysin de tois enterois kai tô hêpati gignesthai tôn prostethentôn, ana||dosin de pantê tou sômatos kai prosthesin. ei men oun epi toutois eutheôs to zôon lambanoi trophên, en hô palin hê gastêr chronô pettei te

Pg 304
[Greek text](#)

Pg 306
[Greek text](#)

Pg 308
[Greek text](#)

Pg 310
[Greek text](#)

tautên kai apolauei prostitheisa pan ex autês to chrêston tois heautês chitôsi, ta men entera teleôs homoiôsei ton prospynta chymon, hôsautôs de kai to hêpar. en holô de tô sômati prospyntis tôn prostethentôn tês trophês estai moriôn. ei d' asitos anankazoito menein hê gastêr en toutô tô chronô, para tôn en mesenterîo te kai hêpati phlebôn helxei tèn trophên; ou gar ex autou ge tou sômatos tou hêpatos. legô de sôma tou hêpatos autên te tèn idian autou sarka prôtên kai malista, meta de tênde kai tôn angeiôn hekaston tôn kat' auto. ton men gar en hekastô tôn moriôn êde periechomenon chymon ouket' eulogon antispân heterô moriô kai malisth' hotan êde prospyntis ê exomoiôsis autou gignêtai. ton d' en tais eurychôriais tôn phlebôn to mallon ischyon th' hama kai deomenon antispâ morion.

202 Houtôs oun kai hê gastêr en || hô chronô deitai men autê trophês, esthieî d' oudepô to zôon, en toutô tôn kata to hêpar exarpazei phlebôn. epei de kai ton splêna dia tôn emprosthen edeiknymen hoson en hêpati pachyteron helkonta katergazesthai te kai metaballein epi to chrêstoteron, ouden oud' entautha thaumaston helkesthai ti kak tou splênos eis hekaston tôn koinônountôn autô kata tas phlebas organôn, hoion eis epiploon kai mesenterion kai lepton enteron kai kôlon kai autên tèn gastera; kata de ton auton tropon exereugesthai men eis tèn gastera to perittôma kath' heteron chronon, auton d' authis ek tês gastros helkein ti tês oikeias trophês en heterô kairô.

Pg 312
[Greek text](#)

203 Katholou d' eipein, ho kai prosthen êde lelektai, pan ek pantos helkein te kai pempein enchôrei kata diapherontas chronous, homoiotatou gignomenou tou symbainontos, hôs ei kai zôa noêsais polla trophên apthtonon en koinô katakeimenên, eis hoson bouletai, prosperomena. kath' hon gar êde pepautai chronon hetera, kata touton eikos esthiein hetera, kai mellein ge ta men || pauesthai, ta d' archesthai, kai tina men synesthionta, ta d' ana meros esthionta kai nai ma Dia ge to heteron harpazein thaterou pollakis, ei to men heteron epideoito, tô d' apthtonôs parakeoito. kai houtôs ouden thaumaston out' ek tês eschatês epiphaneias eisô ti palin hypostrephein oute dia tôn autôn angeiôn ex hêpatos te kai splênos eis koilian anenechthênai ti, di' hôn ek tautês eis ekeina proteron anenechthê.

Kata men gar tas artêrias hikanôs enarges to toiouton, hôsper kai kata tèn kardian te kai ton thôraka kai ton pneumona. toutôn gar hapantôn diastellomenôn te kai systellomenôn enallax anankaion, ex hôn heilkysthê ti proteron, eis tauth' hysteron ekpempesthai. kai tautên ara tèn anankên hê physis progignôskousa tois en tê kardia stomasi tôn angeiôn hymenas epephyse kôlyson tas eis toupisô pheresthai tas hylas. all' hopôs men touto gignetai kai kath' hontina tropon, en tois peri chreias moriôn eirêsetai deiknyntôn hêmôn ta t' alla kai hôs adynaton houtôs akribôs kleiesthai ta stomata tôn angeiôn, hôs || mêden palindromein. eis men gar tèn artêrian tèn phlebôde, kai gar kai tout' en ekeinois deichthêsetai, poly pleon ê dia tôn allôn stomatôn eis toupisô palin anankaion epanerchesthai. to d' eis ta paronta chrêsimon, hôs ouk endechetai ti tôn aisthêtên kai megalên echontôn eurytêta mê ouk êtoi diastellomenon helkein ex hapantôn tôn plêsion ê ekthlibein authis eis tauta systellomenon ek te tôn êde proeirêmenôn en tôde tô logô saphes an eiê kax hôn Erasistratos te kai hêmeis heterôthi peri tês pros to kenoumenon akolouthias edeixamen.

Pg 314
[Greek text](#)

XIV

Alla mên kai hôs en hekastê tôn artêriôn esti tis dynamis ek tês kardias epirrheousa, kath' hên diastellontai te kai systellontai, dedeiktai di' heterôn.

205 Eiper oun syntheiês amphô to te tautên einai tèn kinêsin autais to te pan to diastellomenon helkein ek tôn plêsion eis heauto, thaumaston ouden soi phaneitai tas artêrias, hosai men eis to derma perainousin autôn, epispasthai ton exôthen aera diastellomenas, hosai de kata ti pros tas || phlebas anestomôntai, to leptotaton en autais kai atmôdestaton epispasthai tou haimatos, hosai d' engys tês kardias eisin, ex autês ekeinês poieisthai tèn holkên. en gar tê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia to kouphotaton te kai leptotaton hepetai prôtôn tou baryterou te kai pachyterou; kouphotaton d' esti kai leptotaton hapantôn tôn kata to sôma prôtôn men to pneuma, deuteron d' ho atmos, epi toutô de triton, hoson an akribôs ê kateirgasmenon te kai leleptysmenon haima.

Pg 316
[Greek text](#)

206 Taut' oun eis heautas helkousin hai artêriai pantachotên, hai men eis to derma kathêkousai ton exôthen aera; plêsion te gar autais houtos esti kai kouphotatos en tois malista; tôn d' allôn hê men epi ton trachêlon ek tês kardias aniousa kai hê kata rhachin, êde de kai hosai toutôn engys ex autês malista tês kardias; hosai de kai tês kardias porrhôterô kai tou dermatos, helkein tautais anankaion ek tôn phlebôn to kouphotaton tou haimatos; hôste kai tôn eis tèn gastera te kai ta entera kathêkousôn artêriôn tèn holkên en tô diastellesthai gignesthai para te tês || kardias autês kai tôn parakeimenôn autê phlebôn pampollôn ousôn. ou gar dê ek ge tôn enterôn kai tês koilias trophên houtô pacheian te kai bareian en heautois echontôn dynantai ti metalambanein, ho ti kai axion logou, phthanousai plêrousthai tois kouphoterois. oude gar ei katheis auliskon eis angeion hydatos te kai psammou plêres epispassaio tô stomati ton ek tou auliskou aera, dynait' an akolouthêsai soi pro tou hydatos hê psammos; aei gar en tê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia to kouphoteron hepetai

Pg 318
[Greek text](#)

XV

207 Oukoun chrê thauazein, ei pantelôs oligon ek tês koilias, hoson an akribôs ê kateirgasmenon, eis tas artêrias paragignetai phthanousas plêrousthai tôn kouphoterôn, all' ekeino gignôskein, hôs dy' eston holkês eidê, to men tê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia, to d' oikeiotêti poiôtêtos gignomenon; heterôs men gar eis tas physas ho aër, heterôs d' ho sidêros hypo tês hêrakleias epispatai lithou; kai hôs hê men pros to kenoumenon akolouthia || to kouphoteron helkei proteron, hê de kata tèn tês poiôtêtos oikeiotêta pollakis, ei houtôs etyche, to baryteron, an tê physei syngenesteron hyparchê. kai toinyn kai tais artêriais te kai tê kardia, hôs men koilois te kai diastellesthai dynamenois organois, aei to kouphoteron akolouthei proteron, hôs de trephesthai deomenois, eis autous tous chitônas, hoi dê ta sômata tôn organôn eisin, helketai to oikeion. hoson an oun eis tèn koilotêta diastellomenôn autôn haimatos metalêphthê, toutou to oikeiotaton te kai malista trephein dynamenon hoi chitônes autoi tôn angeiôn epispôntai.

Pg 320
[Greek text](#)

208 Tou d' ek tôn phlebôn eis tas artêrias metalambanesthai ti pros tois eirêmenois hikanon kai touto ge tekâmêrion. ei pollas kai megalas artêrias diatemôn apokteinai to zôon boulêtheiês, heurêseis autou tas phlebas homoiôs tais artêrias ekkenoumenas, ouk an toutou pote genomenou chôris tôn pros allêlas autais anastomôseôn. hôsautôs de kai kat' autên tèn kardian ek tês dexias koilias eis tèn aristeran helketai to leptotaton echontos tina trêmata tou mesou diaphragmatos autôn, ha mechri men pleistou dynaton estin idein, hoion bothynous tinas ex euryterou stomatos aei kai mallon eis stenoteron proïontas. ou mên auta ge ta eschata perata dynaton eti theasasthai dia te smikrotêta kai hoti tethneôtos êdê tou zôou katepsyktai te kai pepyknôtai panta. all' ho logos kantautha prôton men ek tou mêden hypo tês physeôs gignesthai matên hormômenos exeuriskei tas anastomôseis tautas tôn koiliôn tês kardias; ou gar dê eikê ge kai hôs etychen hoi es stenon houtô teleutôntes egenonto bothynoi.

209 Deuteron de kak tou dyoin ontouin stomatois en tê dexia tês kardias koilia tou men eisagontos to haima, tou d' exagontos poly meizon einai to eisagon. hôs gar ou pantos tou haimatos, hoson hê koilê phleps didôsi tê kardia, palin ex ekeinês ekpempomenou tô pneumoni, meizôn estin hê apo tês koilês eis autên emphysis tês emphyomenês eis ton pneumona phlebos. oude || gar tout' estin eipein, hôs edapanêthê ti tou haimatos eis tèn autou tou sômatos tês kardias threpsin. hetera gar esti phleps hê eis ekeino kataschizomenê mête tèn genesin ek tês kardias autês mête tèn tou haimatos echousa metalêpsin. ei de kai dapanatai ti, all' ou tosouton ge meiôn estin hê eis ton pneumona phleps agousa tês eis tèn kardian emphyomenês, hoson eikos eis tèn trophên anêlôsthai tês kardias, alla pleon pollô. dêlon oun, hôs eis tèn aristeran ti metalambanetai koilian.

Pg 322
[Greek text](#)

Kai gar oun kai tôn kat' ekeinên angeiôn dyoin ontôn elatton esti pollô to ek tou pneumonos eis autên eisagon to pneuma tês ekphyomenês artêrias tês megalês, aph' hês hai kata to sôma sympasai pephykasin, hôs an mê monon ek tou pneumonos pneuma metalambanousês autês, alla kak tês dexias koilias haima dia tôn eirêmenôn anastomôseôn.

210 Hoti d' ameinon ên tois tou sômatos moriois tois men hypo katharou kai leptou kai atmôdous haimatos trephesthai, tois d' hypo pacheos kai tholerou kai hôs oud' entautha ti pareôratai tê physei, tês || peri chreias moriôn pragmateias estin, hôst' ou chrê nyn hyper toutôn eti legein, all' hypomnêsantas, hôs dyo eston holkês eidê, tôn men eureiais hodois en tô diastellesthai tê pros to kenoumenon akolouthia tèn helxin poioumenôn, tôn d' oikeiotêti poiôtêtos, ephexês legein, hôs ta men protera kai porrhôthen helkein ti dynatai, ta de deuthera ek tôn engytatô monôn. auliskon men gar hoti mêkiston eis hydôr enesti kathenta rhadiôs anaspan eis to stoma di' autou to hygron; ou mên ei g' epi pleon apagagois tês hêrakleias lithou ton sidêron ê tous pyrous tou keramiou—kai gar kai toiouton ti prosthen elegeto paradeigma—dynait' an eti genesthai tis holkê.

Pg 324
[Greek text](#)

211 Saphestata d' an auto mathois epi tôn en tois kêpois ochetôn; ek toutôn gar eis men ta parakeimena kai plêsion hapanta diadidotai tis ikmas, eis de ta porrhôterô proselthein ouketi dynatai, kai dia tout' anankazontai pollois ochetois mikrois apo tou megalou tetmêmenois eis hekaston meros tou kêpou tèn epirrhysin tou hydatos epitechasthai; kai têlikauta ge ta || metaxy diastêmata toutôn tôn mikrôn ochetôn poiouein, hêlika malista nomizousin arkein eis to hikanôs apolauein helkonta tês hekaterôthen autois epirrheousês hygrotêtos. houtôs oun echei kan tois tôn zôon sômasin. ochetois polloi kata panta ta melê diesparmenoi paragousin autois haima kathaper en kêpois hydreian tina. kai toutôn tôn ochetôn ta metaxy diastêmata thauastôs hypo tês physeôs euthys ex archês diatetaktai pros to mêt' endeôs chorêgeisthai tois metaxy moriois helkousin eis heauta to haima mête kataklyzesthai pot' auta plêthei perittês hygrotêtos akairôs epirrheousês.

Pg 326
[Greek text](#)

Ho gar dê tropos tês threpsês autôn toiosde tis esti. tou synechous heautô sômatos,

hoionper to haploun angeion Erasistratos hypotithetai, ta men epipolês merê prôta tês homilousês apolauei trophês; ek de toutôn au metalambanei kata to syneches helkonta ta toutôn hexês, eit' ex ekeinôn authis hetera kai tout' ou pauetai gignomenon, achris an eis hapant' autou diadothê ta moria tês trephousês ousias hê poiôtês. hosa de tôn moriôn epi pleon || alloioumenou deitai tou mellontos auta threpsein chymou, toutois hôsper ti tamieion hê physis pareskeuasen êtoi koilias ê sêrangas ê ti tais sêranxin analogon. hai men gar sarkes hai te tôn splanchnôn hapantôn hai te tôn myôn ex haimatos autou trephontai bracheian alloiôsin dexamenou. ta d' osta pampollês en tô metaxy deitai tês metabolês, hina traphê, kai estin hoionper to haima tais sarxi, toioutos ho myelos tois ostois en men tois mikrois te kai akoiliois kata tas sêrangas autôn diesparmenos, en de tois meizosi te kai koilias echousin en ekeinais êthroismenos.

Hôs gar kai dia tou prôtou grammatos edeiknyto, tois men homoian echousi tèn ousian eis allêla metaballein enchôrei, tois de pampoly diestôsin amêchanon allêlois homoiôthênai chôris tôn en mesô metabolôn. toiouton ti kai tois chondrois esti to perikechymenon myxôdes kai tois syndesmois kai tois hymesai kai tois neurois to paresparmenon en autois hygron glischron; hekaston gar || toutôn ex inôn synkeitai pollôn, haiper homoiomereis t' eisi kai ontôs aisthêta stoicheia. kata de tas metaxy chôras autôn ho oikeiotatos eis threpsin parespartai chymos, hon heilkysan men ek tôn phlebôn tou haimatos, hoson hoion t' ên eklexamenai ton epitêdeiotaton, exomoiousi de kata brachy kai metaballousin eis tèn heautôn ousian.

Hapant' oun tauta kai allêlois homologei kai tois emprosthen apodedeigmenois hikanôs martyrei kai ou chrê mêkynein eti ton logon; ek gar tôn eirêmenôn enestin hekastô ta kata meros hapanta kath' hontina gignetai tropon exeuriskein hetoimôs, hôsper kai dia ti pollois kôthônizomenois pampoly tachista men anadidota to pothen, oureitai d' oligou dein hapan entos ou pollou chronou. kai gar kantautha tê te tês poiôtêtos oikeiotêti kai tê tês hygrotêtos leptotêti kai tê tôn angeiôn te kai tôn kat' auta stomatôn eurytêti kai tê tês helktikês dynameôs eurôstia to tachos synteleitai tês anadoseôs, tôn men plêsion tês koilias tetagmenôn moriôn oikeiotêti poiôtêtos || heautôn heneka helkontôn to poma, tôn d' hexês toutois exarpazontôn kai autôn eis heauta kapeita tôn ephexês palin ek toutôn metalambanontôn, achris an eis tèn koilên aphikêtai phleba, tounteuthen d' êdê tôn nephron to oikeion epispômenôn. hôst' ouden thaumaston oinon men hydatos analambanesthai thatton oikeiotêti poiôtêtos, auton de ton oinon ton men leukon kai katharon hetoimôs anadidosthai dia leptotêta, ton d' au melana kai tholeron ischesthai te kata tèn hodon kai bradynein hypo pachous.

Eiê d' an tauta kai tôn hyper tôn artêriôn emprosthen eirêmenôn ou smikra martyria. pantachou gar hoson oikeion te kai lepton haima tou mê toioutou rhaon hepetai tois helkousin. atmon oun helkousai kai pneuma kai lepton haima kata tas diastaseis hai artêriai tôn kata tèn koilian kai ta entera periechomenôn chymôn ê oud' holôs ê pantapasin epispôntai brachy.

Pg 328
[Greek text](#)

Pg 330
[Greek text](#)

(The numbers refer to the pages of the present edition; fuller references will be found in the footnotes.)

- Abortifacient drugs, [285](#)
 Abortion, [231](#), [285](#)
 Absorption from digestive tract (*v. Anadosis*)
 Acidity of urine, [245](#), [287](#)
 Activity (function), [13](#)
 Adhesion (prospysis) of nutriment to tissues, [39](#)
 Affinity, [33](#)
 Alimentary canal, [119](#), [309](#)
 coats of, [23](#), [263](#)
 Allopathic treatment, [199](#)
 Alteration (qualitative change), [7](#), [9](#), [241](#), [251](#)
 Anadosis (absorption from digestive tract), [63](#), [119](#)
 Anæmia, [173](#)
 Anasarca (dropsy), [41](#)
 Anastomoses (communications between arteries and veins), [321](#)
 Anaxagoras, "preformationist" doctrine of, [7](#)
 Ancient writers, value of, [279](#)
 Animal life, [3](#)
 Animals (*v. also History, Natural*)
 cold-blooded, [181](#)
 long-necked, [275](#)
 Anorexia (want of appetite), [247](#)
 Aorta (main artery of body), [143](#), [323](#)
 Appetite, [249](#)
 Aristotle, [9](#), *et passim* (*v. also Peripatetic School*)
 Arrows, drugs for extracting heads of, [83](#)
 "Art" of Nature (*i.e.* of the living organism), [57](#)
 Arteries, structure of, [283](#)
 to-and-fro motion in, [313](#)
 attraction of air by, through skin, [317](#)
 Artery, pulmonary, [121](#), [323](#)
 Artificer, [133](#)
 Asclepiades, [49](#), *et passim*
 Asepsis (absence of corruption), [201](#)
 Assimilation, [33](#)
 Asthenia (weakness), [239](#)
 Atomist School in Medicine, [45](#)
 Atrabiliary (melancholic) humour, [209](#)
 Attraction (*v. also Horror vacui*)
 physiological, [45](#)
 magnetic, [73](#)
 Auricle, left, of heart, [315](#)
 right, of heart, [321](#)
 Authority, value of, [279](#)
 Aversion, [249](#)
- Baking, [259](#)
 Beauty, [47](#)
 Bile, yellow, [63](#), [123](#), [177](#), [191](#), [289](#)
 "vitelline," [209](#)
 black, [203](#) (*v. also Melancholic humour*)
 Bile-passages, mechanical blocking of, [171](#)
 Biliousness, [193](#)
 Biology, repudiation of, by Atomist School, [45](#)
 Bladder, urinary, [51](#), [53](#), *et passim*
 for bile (*v. Gall-bladder*)
 Blood-production, [17](#), [169](#), [183](#), [191](#), [201](#)
 Boiling, [259](#)
 Boils, [253](#)
 Bone, structure of, [327](#)
 Bone-marrow, [327](#)
 Borborygmi (gurglings) in stomach, [237](#)
 Bread, constitution of, [11](#)
 Bubo (swollen lymphatic glands in groin), [185](#)
 Butchers (as the primitive anatomists), [51](#)
- Cadaver (corpse), experiment on, [265](#)
 Cartilage (gristle), [329](#)
 Catarrh (mucous discharge), [215](#)
 Cattle (as typifying "herd-morality"), [47](#)
 "Cell," of animal tissues, [153](#)
 nutrition of, [327](#)
 Change, qualitative (*v. Alteration*)
 Channels (*v. Morphological hypothesis*)
 Cheese-making, [91](#)
 Childbirth, [231](#), [285](#)
 Children's game, [27](#)

Chill, [171](#), [203](#) (v. also *Cold*)
Cholagogues (drugs that draw off bile), [65](#)
Cholera, [299](#)
Chorion (membrane enclosing unborn child), [229](#)
Chrysippus, [9](#)
Chyle (emulsified contents of stomach), (v. *Emulsification*)
Cirrhosis (induration) of liver, [171](#)
Coats (tunics), [23](#)
Cold, action of, on skin, [301](#)
Cold-in-the-head, [215](#) (v. also *Chill*)
Colon (large intestine), [313](#)
Colour, [5](#)
Conception, of semen, [233](#)
Congius (measure), [111](#)
Contractions (v. *Peristalsis*)
Cooking, [191](#)
Corn, attractive power of, [87](#)
Coryza (mucous discharge: now a “cold”), [215](#)
Crisis, [75](#)
Cyathus (measure), [65](#)

Decay, [7](#)
Deductive reasoning, [227](#)
Deglutition (swallowing), [95](#), [261](#), [265](#), [273](#)
Democritus, [153](#)
Deposits (in tissues), [297](#)
Desire (appetite), [249](#), [269](#)
Destruction (act of perishing), [7](#)
Diaphragm (midriff), [255](#)
Diarrhoea, [247](#), [299](#)
Diet, [35](#), [179](#), [255](#)
Digestion, cause of, [243](#)
 impairment of, [185](#), [217](#), [237](#)
Digestive tract, action on food, [251](#), *et seq.*
 structure (v. *Alimentary Canal*)
Diocles, [51](#)
Disease, definition of, [197](#)
Diseases, the four primary, [185](#)
Disjunctive argument, [167](#)
Distribution (diadosis) of nutriment to tissues, [163](#)
Dropsy, [41](#), [67](#), [171](#)
Drugs, [65](#), [285](#), [293](#) (v. also *Poisons*)
Dyscrasia (abnormal blending of the four qualities), [189](#)
Dysentery, [205](#)
Dyspepsia (v. *Indigestion*)

Education, [279](#)
Effect (product, work done), [13](#)
Emaciation, [161](#)
Emanations, [77](#)
Embryo, [229](#)
Emesis (v. *Vomiting*)
Empiricist physicians, [69](#), [193](#)
Emulsification, [239](#)
Epicurus, [71](#)
Epigastric muscles, [237](#)
Epispastic (attractive), [117](#)
Erasistratus, [95](#)
Erasistrateans, [105](#)
Etna, [259](#)
Eucrasia (proper blending of the four qualities), [189](#)
Evaporation, [51](#), [87](#), [251](#)
Experience (v. *Empiricist physicians*)
Expulsive faculty, [231](#)

Faculty (potentiality), [13](#)
Fæces (ordure from bowel), [255](#)
Fermentation, [209](#)
Fever as a cause of indigestion, [185](#)
Fibres, [329](#)
 of blood, [215](#)
 circular and longitudinal, [263](#)
 oblique, [281](#)
Filtration, [91](#)
Fish, voraciousness of, [269](#)
Flavour, [5](#)
Fluxions, [297](#)
Fœtus (unborn child), [233](#)
 death of, [287](#)
Forced-feeding, [247](#)
Forces, material, [127](#), [301](#)
Function (activity), cause of, [197](#)

Gall-bladder, [147](#), [245](#)
 absence of nerves in, [289](#)
 Gardens, irrigation of, [325](#)
 Genesis (development of embryo), [19](#)
 Germander (drug), [67](#)
 Gestation (carrying of embryo by mother), [229](#)
 Give-and-take between organs, [295](#)
 Gravity (explaining secretion of urine), [107](#)
 Greediness, [271](#)
 Growth, [27](#), [137](#)
 Gullet, [263](#)
 use of, by stomach, [271](#)
 function of its two coats, [273](#)
 Gurgling in stomach, [237](#)
 Habit of body, [69](#)
 Hæmorrhage, intestinal, [297](#)
 Hæmorrhoids (*v. Piles*)
 Heartburn, [287](#)
 Heat, innate, [41](#), [141](#), [185](#)
 Hepatic veins (entering vena cava from liver), [147](#)
 Herophilus, [233](#)
 Hippocrates, [9](#), *et passim*
 Histogenesis (tissue-production), [21](#)
 History, natural, [269](#)
 Homœomeries (similar parts), [169](#)
 Homœopathy, p. 199, [Note 1](#)
 Honey, [179](#), [191](#)
 Horror vacui ("Nature's abhorrence of a vacuum"), [99](#), [155](#)
 Humours, the four, origin of, [167](#), [183](#), [209](#)
 Hydragogues (drugs that draw water out of the system), [65](#)

Ileus volvulus (obstruction of bowels), [299](#), [303](#)
 Illusions, sensory, [7](#)
 Indigestion, [185](#), [217](#), [237](#)
 Inductive reasoning, [227](#)
 Inflammation, [89](#), [233](#)
 Interaction of any two bodies, [251](#)
 Intestine, small, [255](#)
 Intestines, structure of, [283](#)
 movements of, [243](#)
 Ionia, [29](#)
 Iron, [71](#)
 Irrigation of gardens and tissues, [325](#)

Jaundice, [179](#), [207](#)
 Jejunum (part of small intestine), [299](#)

Kidneys, [49](#), [89](#)

Labour (*v. Childbirth*)
 Larynx (voice-box), involved in swallowing, [265](#)
 Leprosy, [41](#)
 Leucippus, [153](#)
 Lichen (a skin-disease), [253](#)
 Liver, proper tissue of, [311](#)
 transverse fissure of, [147](#)
 induration of, [171](#)
 give-and-take between it and stomach, [291](#)
 Lodestone, [71](#)
 Love, [47](#)
 Lumen (internal cavity of a vessel), [119](#)
 Lycus, [109](#)

Magnetism, [71](#)
 Marrow of bones, [327](#)
 Mastication, [253](#)
 Material forces, [127](#)
 Medicine, taking of, [269](#) (*v. also Drugs*)
 Melancholic (*v. Atrabiliary*)
 Membranes, foetal, [231](#), [285](#) (*v. also Chorion*)
 Menander, [105](#)
 Menodotus, [81](#)
 Menstrual blood, [131](#), [171](#)
 Metabolism, diseases of, [41](#)
 Midwife, [235](#)
 Miscarriage, (*v. Abortion*)
 Molecules (of Asclepiades), [63](#)
 Morphological hypothesis of bile-secretion, [125](#), [147](#)
 Motion, active and passive, [57](#)
 Mouth, lining of, [261](#)
 digestion in, [253](#)
 Mucus, [203](#), [215](#)
 Muscles, voluntary, [263](#)

"Nature," [1](#);
 its "Art," [57](#)
 Nature-lore (v. *Physiology*)
 Nausea, [287](#)
 "Nerve," [151](#), [273](#)
 Nutriment, [41](#)
 Nutrition, [31](#), [149](#)

 Obstetric chair, [235](#)
 Obstruction of bowels, [299](#), [303](#)
 Oesophagus (v. *Gullet*)
 Omentum (an apron-like fold of fat, overlying the intestine), [143](#), [255](#), [313](#)
 Organism, unity of, [61](#)
 Organs, nutrition of, [307](#)
 Os uteri (mouth of womb), [229](#)
 Ovum, human, [135](#)
 Oxidation, [211](#)
 Oxygen (v. *Pneuma*)

 Pain, [287](#)
 Parturition, [231](#)
 Pathology, relation to Physiology, [189](#), [287](#)
 Peasants, [87](#)
 Perch (v. *Fish*)
 Peripatetic (Aristotelian) School, [139](#)
 Peristalsis (contraction and dilatation), [97](#), [243](#), [263](#)
 Peritoneum, [53](#)
 Phidias, [129](#)
 Philistion, [173](#)
 Philotimus, [183](#)
 Phlegm, [67](#), [201](#), [215](#)
 Phlegmatic temperament, [193](#)
 "Physiology," [139](#)
 Piles, [171](#)
 Plant-life, [3](#)
 Plato, [173](#), [203](#), [215](#)
 Plethora (congestion), [119](#)
 Pneuma (as a vital principle), [153](#);
 (as oxygen), [187](#)
 Poisons, action of, [251](#)
 Porch, the (Stoic School), [145](#)
 "Pores" (v. *Channels*)
 Portal vein, [147](#)
 Potter's earth, [213](#)
 Practitioner, [197](#)
 Praxagoras, [51](#)
 Praxiteles, [129](#)
 "Preformationist" doctrine of Anaxagoras, p. 7, [Note 5](#)
 Presentation (prosthesis) of nutriment to tissues, [39](#)
 Prevention and Cure, [169](#)
 Principles, the four fundamental (v. *Qualities*)
 Prodicus, [201](#)
 Prolapse of uterus, [235](#)
 Propulsive faculty, [231](#)
 Prosphysis (v. *Adhesion*)
 Prosthesis (v. *Presentation*)
 Psyche, [3](#), [153](#)
 Psychology, repudiation of, by Atomist School, [45](#)
 Pulmonary artery, [121](#)
 Pylorus (outlet of stomach), [239](#)
 regurgitation through, [289](#)
 Pyrrhonists (typical sceptics), [197](#)

 Qualities, the four fundamental, [9](#), [183](#), [259](#)
 derivative, [21](#)

 Relativity, [17](#)
 Renal veins, [107](#)
 Respiration, [175](#), [305](#)
 Retentive faculty, [225](#)
 Rhetoric, [97](#)

 Safflower (drug), [67](#)
 Saliva, action of, [253](#)
 Scammony (drug), [67](#)
 Schools, two contrasted, in Medicine, [45](#)
 Scientist, [197](#)
 Scorpions, [253](#)
 Sculpture, [129](#)
 Sectarianism, [55](#)
 Sects, medical (v. *Schools*)
 Self-control, [47](#)

Self-education, [279](#)
 Semen, [131](#), [233](#)
 Sensation, [47](#)
 Septum, perforated, between ventricles of heart, [321](#)
 Serum (watery part of blood or milk), [91](#), [213](#)
 Shaping (development of organs), [19](#)
 Sieves, [91](#)
 Skin-diseases, [253](#) (v. also *Leprosy* and *Lichens*)
 Slaves, [103](#)
 Sociability, [47](#)
 Sophistry, [219](#), [279](#)
 Sophists, [7](#)
 Soul, [45](#)
 Specific selection of nutriment by tissues (v. *Attraction, physiological*)
 Spermatic ducts, [57](#)
 Spirit (v. *Pneuma*)
 Spleen, function and diseases of, [205](#)
 “uselessness” of, [143](#)
 as an emunctory of the liver, [277](#)
 Statues, [129](#)
 Sting-ray (fish), bite of, [85](#)
 Stoics, [15](#), [145](#)
 Stomach, function of, [197](#), [237](#), [251](#), [255](#)
 coats of, [261](#)
 independent habits of, [271](#)
 give-and-take between it and liver, [291](#)
 Stone in bladder, [51](#)
 Strength, relative, of different organs, [293](#)
 Substance, [9](#)
 Superfluities (waste-substances), [35](#), [291](#)
 Swallowing (v. *Deglutition*)
 Symptoms, [13](#)
 Synapse, [147](#)

Teeth, [253](#)
 Temperament (crasis, mixture of elementary principles), [15](#), [139](#), [193](#)
 Temperance, [47](#)
 Theophrastus, [139](#)
 Thorns, drugs for extracting, [83](#)
 Tissues, development of, [21](#)
 their action in producing humours, [179](#), [195](#)
 Trachea (windpipe), [305](#)
 Transference (passive motion), [7](#)
 Transpiration, [153](#)
 Treatment, principles of, [199](#)
 Tricuspid orifice of heart, [321](#)
 Tubes, rigid, [119](#), [317](#), [325](#)

Unity of organism, [61](#)
 Ureters, [23](#), [51](#)
 Urine, [51](#)
 “Useless” organs (Erasistratus), [143](#)
 Uterus (womb), [227](#)

Vacuum, tendency to refill (v. *Horror vacui*)
 Valves of heart, [121](#), [315](#)
 Vaporisation (v. *Evaporation*)
 Vegetable diet, [35](#), [179](#)
 Vegetative life, [3](#)
 Veins, structure of, [283](#)
 “arterial” (v. *Pulmonary artery*)
 coronary, [323](#)
 hepatic, [147](#)
 mesenteric, [293](#), [305](#)
 portal, [147](#)
 renal, [107](#), [143](#)
 vena cava (chief vein of body), [91](#)
 collapse of, [119](#)
 Ventricles of heart, communication between, [321](#)
 Vipers, [85](#)
 Vitalist School in Medicine, [45](#)
 Vivisection, [59](#), [241](#), [273](#)
 Voluntary motion, [3](#)
 Volvulus (intestinal obstruction), [299](#), [303](#)
 Vomiting, [241](#), [247](#), [267](#)
 fæcal, [299](#)

Waste-products (v. *Superfluities*)
 Whey (v. *Serum*)
 Wine, [209](#), [329](#)
 Womb (v. *Uterus*)
 Wounds, [185](#)
 Wrestling, [125](#)

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