Galen on the Affected Parts

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GALEN
ON THE AFFECTED PARTS

Translation from the Greek Text with Explanatory Notes

Rudolph E. Siegel, MD


Previous publications by Rudolph E. Siegel

Galen's System of Physiology and Medicine
An Analysis of his Doctrines and Observations on Bloodflow, Respiration, Humors and Internal Diseases
XII + 419 p., 9 fig., 1968. ISBN 3-8055-1016-0

Galen on Sense Perception
His Doctrines, Observations and Experiments on Vision, Hearing, Smell, Taste, Touch and Pain, and their Historical Sources

Galen on Psychology, Psychopathology, and Function and Diseases of the Nervous System
An Analysis of his Doctrines, Observations and Experiments

Cataloging in Publication
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Preface

Galen's treatise On the affected parts (De lads affectis) is one of his later works, written after he had retired to Pergamon at the age of 60. The six books composing this treatise were composed after 192 AD.1 His goal was to put the therapy of internal diseases on a rational basis by establishing a topographic diagnosis. He had worked on this program for many years following the example of Archigenes, who, some years earlier, had composed a treatise of the same title. Galen criticized many faults of Archigenes' work, especially with regard to terminology and definitions. Archigenes' treatise has been lost.

Books I and II of Galen's own treatise are devoted to what we now call general pathology: an analysis of physical signs, of different types of pain and other aspects of the clinical examination which, even at that early period, relied mainly on a medical history and an inspection of the patient. The other four books are devoted to a systematic description of diseases of the different physiological systems of the body and to their differential diagnoses. The principal topics and diseases are summarized in the Table of Topics. In contrast to De lads affectis, Galen's other treatises dealt less with syndromes but more with specific diagnostic problems, such as crises, pulses, prognosis, various symptoms, the role of the temperaments, and other causes of disease.

The treatise De lads affectis is unquestionably from Galen's own hand, since he frequently referred to it in other books. The work was not considered mandatory reading for medical students during the Middle Ages and before the 14th century.2 The early edition of Galen's work, published by Aldine in Venice (1525), included this treatise, as did numerous subsequent reprints. De lads affectis was also published in Spain in 1561/62. 3 Durling listed about 25 separate
editions which were printed during the 16th century.
CA. Ackermann, in the introduction to the Kuehn edition of Galen's collected works (1821-1833), mentioned in his lengthy historia literaria4 that an Arabic version of four of the six books of this treatise existed and that a Hebrew translation had been made from this Arabic text. He further enumerated many 1 Bardong, p. 640 (1942); Ilberg, 44: 226 (1889);51: 168 (1896).
3 Durling, p. 245 (1961).

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commentaries to this treatise, as for instance those by Avicenna, Agricola (1537), L. Fuchs (1554), and J. Sylvius (1539).
During the last century Daremberg (1856) made a French translations and Renander (1960)6 translated the treatise into Swedish. So far no other translation into a modern language has become available.
My translation follows strictly the text of the Kuehn edition of Galen's works. No attempt is made to eliminate repetitive passages, to correct apparent inconsistencies, or to change the sequence of sentences where it appeared likely that the original order had been altered.
The letter K followed by the numbers 1 to 452 indicates the corresponding page in the 8th volume of the Kuehn edition of Galen's works and refers to the Greek text. Square brackets [ ] enclose explicative additions; parentheses ( ) enclose Latin, Greek or technical terms. The explanatory notes refer to the name of the author and the page of the reference. The full title of each reference is given in the attached bibliography. The latter does not list works of or about Galen unrelated to this translation, since an extensive bibliography was given in the three volumes published by me prior to this translation.
All explanatory notes are assembled at the end of this volume, where, at the top of each page, the pages of the translation are indicated. The numbers of those notes are in sequence, starting with 1 for each book. Important Galenic concepts are explained only once in the notes in the order in which they appear in the text. Reference to all explanatory notes is given in the index of subjects and names.