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0521431018 - Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death - Edited by Luis Garcia-Ballester, Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga and Andrew Cunningham

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From the eleventh century to the Black Death in 1348 Europe was economically vigorous and expanding, especially in Mediterranean societies. In this world of growing wealth new educational institutions were founded, the universities; and it was in these that a new form of medicine came to be taught and which widely influenced medical care throughout Europe. The knowledge of the university medical practitioner, both physician and surgeon, was built on translations of Greek and Arabic texts, together with personal experience of medical practice.

The essays in this collection focus on the practical aspects of medieval medicine, and among other issues they explore how far this new learned medicine percolated through to the popular level; how the learned medical men understood and coped with plague; the theory and practice of medical astrology, and of bleeding (phlebotomy) for the cure and prevention of illness. Several essays deal with the development and interrelations of the nascent medical profession, and of Christian, Muslim and Jewish practitioners one to another. Special emphasis is given to the practice of surgery and to innovation in surgical technique, to the development of surgical treatises which made learned surgery more widely available, and to the role of royal surgeons. The problems of recovering knowledge of a large proportion of medical care – that given by women – are also explored.

This collection forms a companion volume to *The medical renaissance of the sixteenth century* (1985, edited by Andrew Wear, Roger French and I. M. Lonie), *The medical revolution of the seventeenth century* (1989, edited by Roger French and Andrew Wear), *The medical enlightenment of the eighteenth century* (1990, edited by Andrew Cunningham and Roger French), and *The laboratory revolution in medicine* (1992, edited by Andrew Cunningham and Perry Williams).

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# Practical medicine from Salerno to the Black Death

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[More information](#)

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0521431018 - Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death - Edited by Luis Garcia-Ballester, Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga and Andrew Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>List of illustrations and tables</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of contributors and editors</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<i>Note on names</i>	xiii
Introduction: Practical medicine from Salerno to the Black Death	I
LUIS GARCÍA-BALLESTER	
1 Astrology in medical practice	30
ROGER FRENCH	
2 The science and practice of medicine in the thirteenth century according to Guglielmo da Saliceto, Italian surgeon	60
JOLE AGRIMI and CHIARA CRISCIANI	
3 How to write a Latin book on surgery: organizing principles and authorial devices in Guglielmo da Saliceto and Dino del Garbo	88
NANCY G. SIRAISSI	
4 Derivation and revulsion: the theory and practice of medieval phlebotomy	110
PEDRO GIL-SOTRES	
5 Surgical texts and social contexts: physicians and surgeons in Paris, c. 1270 to 1430	156
CORNELIUS O'BOYLE	
6 Medical practice in Paris in the first half of the fourteenth century	186
DANIELLE JACQUART	
7 Royal surgeons and the value of medical learning: the Crown of Aragon, 1300–1350	211
MICHAEL R. MCVAUGH	
8 Facing the Black Death: perceptions and reactions of university medical practitioners	237
JON ARRIZABALAGA	
	vii

Cambridge University Press

0521431018 - Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death - Edited by Luis Garcia-Ballester, Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga and Andrew Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)viii *Contents*

9	John of Arderne and the Mediterranean tradition of scholastic surgery	289
	PETER MURRAY JONES	
10	Documenting medieval women's medical practice	322
	MONICA H. GREEN	
11	A marginal learned medical world: Jewish, Muslim and Christian medical practitioners, and the use of Arabic medical sources in late medieval Spain	353
	LUIS GARCÍA-BALLESTER	
	<i>Index</i>	395

Cambridge University Press

0521431018 - Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death - Edited by Luis Garcia-Ballester, Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga and Andrew Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Illustrations and tables

1	Zodiac man from a French <i>Miscellanea Medica</i> of the early fourteenth century. Wellcome Institute Library, London: Western MS 544.	page 40
2	Zodiac man from a fifteenth-century calendar. Wellcome Institute Library, London: Western MS 40.	41
3	The medical week: the phases of the moon. From a collection of various works of Galen, mid fourteenth century. Wellcome Institute Library, London.	46
4	A phlebotomy figure from a French <i>Miscellanea Medica</i> of the early fourteenth century. Wellcome Institute Library, London: Western MS 544.	142
5	A phlebotomy figure, probably of the late thirteenth century. Wellcome Institute Library, London: Western MS 536.	143
6	A 'vein man', <i>homo venarum</i> , from a fifteenth-century calendar. Wellcome Institute Library, London: Western MS 40.	144
7	Master John of Arderne probing a fistulous hole to see if it perforates the rectum. British Library, Sloane MS 2002, fol. 24v.	293
8	A chaplain from Colston with a sore on his breast. British Library, Sloane MS 56, fol. 73.	297
9	<i>Macule nigre</i> : a form of haemorrhoids. British Library, Sloane MS 56, fol. 84.	305
10	John of Arderne's operation for <i>fistula in ano</i> . Stages of the operation are shown above the instruments to be used. British Library, Additional MS 29301, fol. 25.	316
11	Two presentations of fistulae, as seen by the surgeon. British Library, Sloane MS 56, fol. 53.	318

### MAP

The Iberian peninsula in the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.	354
--	-----

Cambridge University Press

0521431018 - Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death - Edited by Luis Garcia-Ballester, Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga and Andrew Cunningham  
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

x      *Illustrations and tables*

TABLE

Places and years in which medical manuscripts in Arabic were written, corrected or used in medieval Spanish kingdoms.

372



Cambridge University Press

0521431018 - Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death - Edited by Luis Garcia-Ballester, Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga and Andrew Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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0521431018 - Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death - Edited by Luis Garcia-Ballester, Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga and Andrew Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Cambridge University Press

0521431018 - Practical Medicine from Salerno to the Black Death - Edited by Luis Garcia-Ballester, Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga and Andrew Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## Note on names

In the vexed matter of the appropriate form of medieval names, we have mainly followed the usages in Nancy Siraisi, *Taddeo Alderotti and his Pupils: Two Generations of Italian Medical Learning* (Princeton, 1981), and Michael R. McVaugh and Nancy Siraisi (eds.), *Renaissance Medical Learning: Evolution of a Tradition* (*Osiris*, 2nd series, 6 (1990)). Alternative versions of names are given in the index.

It has been impossible to achieve consistency throughout the volume in the spelling and accenting of Peninsula place names, and we have generally opted for forms most familiar to the English-language reader.