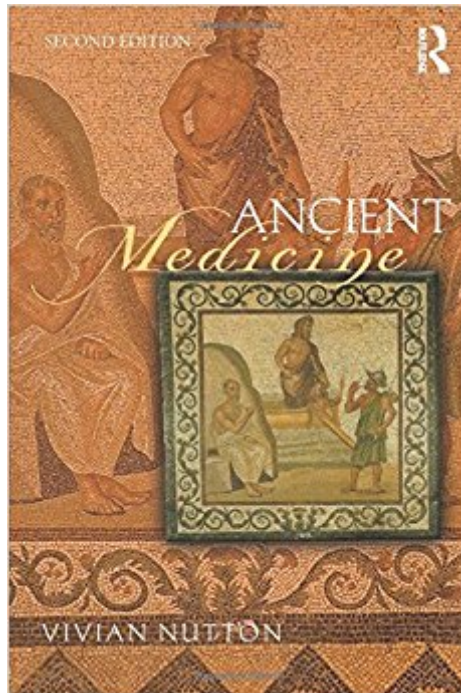




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# Ancient Medicine (Sciences Of Antiquity Series)



## Synopsis

The first edition of *Ancient Medicine* was the most complete examination of the medicine of the ancient world for a hundred years. The new edition includes the key discoveries made since the first edition, especially from important texts discovered in recent finds of papyri and manuscripts, making it the most comprehensive and up-to-date survey available. Vivian Nutton pays particular attention to the life and work of doctors in communities, links between medicine and magic, and examines the different approaches to medicine across the ancient world. The new edition includes more on Rufus and Galen as well as augmented information on Babylonia, Hellenistic medicine and Late Antiquity. With recently discovered texts made accessible for the first time, and providing new evidence, this broad exploration challenges currently held perspectives, and proves an invaluable resource for students of both classics and the history of medicine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It is difficult to find a scholar with more expertise in Greco-Roman medical texts than Nutton, or as much historical breadth and range. Indeed, this is the only book available in English that offers a comprehensive survey of the long and complex tradition of Greek medicine from its earliest periods to the end of the Roman empire... Nutton masterfully guides the reader through the massive amount of literary, scientific, philosophical and material evidence, constructing a coherent and compelling narrative of the often heroic attempts of ancient doctors to understand and treat disease. The new edition will be essential as a starting point for all serious students of Greek and Roman medicine."

"The first edition of Vivian Nutton's *Ancient Medicine* (2004) is already established as the most authoritative, and expansive, synthetic treatment of the subject available... This new edition is motivated by the recent discovery, and/or publication, of new evidence to add to this rich picture, as well as the continued development of the scholarly field more broadly. All of this is encompassed in Nutton's new edition, from the items that have made a big splash, to those that have more stealthily crept up on us... None of this changes the basic pattern which Nutton outlines, all can be incorporated into his basic narrative, but this is still an even richer, and more complex, version of that story: the new edition is even more authoritative as a result." - Rebecca Flemming, University of Cambridge, UK.

Praise for the first edition (2004): 'A worthy enterprise ... The result is a masterful evaluation of health and disease ... Galen would have been pleased.' - W.F. Bynum, *The Times Higher Education Supplement* '[A] near-masterpiece, *Ancient Medicine* is a huge quarry, fit for mining and exploitation by those who have the proper equipment.' - BMCR 'This is an impressive piece of research. It will . . . serve both as introduction and as comprehensive guide for generations of scholars interested in the development of medical ideas from early Greece to late antiquity . . . This book is an essential tool for anyone interested in the history of Western medicine.' - *Biblical Theology Bulletin*

Vivian Nutton, FBA, is Professor emeritus of the History of Medicine at University College London, and an honorary Professor in both Classics and History at the university of Warwick. He has published extensively on all aspects on medicine before the seventeenth century, and in particular on Galen and the Renaissance.

Information concerning medical science during the period from about the fifth century BCE to about 500 CE is found in many, many old texts that have been discovered that are written in Greek, Egyptian, Syriac, Arabic, and Latin, papyri, parts of writings on papyri, animal skins, etc., which just to "find" part of them involves a great investigative effort. Vivian Nutton has, in this text accomplished a great amount of research of the sources I've mentioned above, plus many more, so that he has been able to provide a well documented, and accurate analysis of the state of medical science, and how it evolved, over the period mentioned above. His effort, besides providing a thorough well-documented review of medical science and how it evolved, provides for the "interested reader, as well as for scholars, a thorough review and, at the same time, an in-depth, study of ancient medicine so that it decreases the effort that others have to expend to gain a

thorough knowledge of the subject which it so thoroughly covers. I found it to be a very thorough and realistic expose' of medical science as it was understood and practiced during the above-mentioned time period especially the contribution of Hippocrates, Erasistratis and Galen.

Accurate but a little tedious, Nutton is a good, thorough historian but not a lively writer. I liked the breadth of coverage and her command of the material -- this is the work of a mature academic, the opposite of a cut-and-paste, quote-all-views-impartially journalistic product.

Nutton gives an authoritative account of ancient medicine. It is fine synthesis of the history, the culture of medicine in the ancient world and some of the arguments and explanations used by the physicians and surgeons of the time. I highly recommend this book.

nutton's work is well researched and presented in a clear and precise manner. fascinating information on the knowledge of ancient physicians, and how they had many characteristics doctors lack today. a must for anyone studying the history of medicine, especially of the roman era.

The book delves deep into ancient medicine, describing techniques for healing wounds to delivering babies; but it is written with both a medical and historical record that is accurate to the best minds that interpreted medical techniques. Absolutely mandatory reading for the student who hopes to become a physician

Vivian Nutton produces a good overview of the ancient Greek medicine, focusing mainly on Hippocratic Medicine and how it medicine progressed in the Hellenistic period to later with Galen. Good overview to get into ancient medicine.

As expected.

excellent medicine history review

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