

Some, however, may take issue with his selection of sources. His comparative discussion of European MS societies is based on two secondary literature articles. His assessment of national contribution to the “advances in the understanding of MS as an autoimmune disease” by way of numbers of laboratories and clinics identified in “seventy-seven key studies” is problematic (pp. 112–13). On this basis, the UK MS Society, which began funding fellowships in 1954 and to date has directed over £75 million to research, was not an identifiable financier of any advance. Consideration of *Interferon: the science and selling of a miracle drug* by Toine Pieters (2005) could have broadened the perspective here. The opening line, “We are at a point of great hope” (p. 133) in Talley’s concluding chapter will raise eyebrows. But he is on a mission. One that is well crafted and heartfelt.

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**Philippe Mudry,** *Medicina, soror philosophiae: regards sur la littérature et les textes médicaux antiques (1975–2005)*, textes réunis et édités par **Brigitte Maire**, Lausanne, Editions BHMS, 2006, pp. xxvi, 545, €32.00 (paperback 978-2-9700536-0-6).

The collection edited by Brigitte Maire comprises no less than fifty papers written by her mentor Philippe Mudry between 1975 and 2005. It includes a brief introduction by the editor and a preface by his former colleague and friend Jackie Pigeaud, whose *Kleine Schriften* appeared recently (Paris, 2007), and whose interests widely converge with Mudry’s. A specialist of Latin literature—although he does not shy away from approaching Greek texts—Mudry’s main contribution to the disciplines of classics and medical history lies in his many studies on Celsus, Pliny the Elder and Caelius Aurelianus—most of which are gathered here.

His edition of the preface of Celsus’ *De medicina* is a classic; his clear, vivid accounts of the ancient doctrine of the Methodists (for example, ‘Le regard souverain ou la médecine de l’évidence’, pp. 87–94) have contributed to the scholarly revival of this ancient medical school (the fragments of the Methodists were edited by Manuela Tecusan in 2004). In general, Mudry’s approach combines sound philological information with an adequate view of the broader (medical-historical) picture; he has a talent for explaining clearly the complicated or delicate issues that ancient medical texts often raise, and sometimes entertains his readers with humorous (though accurate) analyses of the strategies of modern translators regarding Latin texts. Moreover, Mudry is more sensitive than anyone else to the human aspects of Roman medicine and to the concerns that Latin doctors display (or not) about pain and suffering. Finally, his texts are usually clear, concise and well-written; even readers with uncertain French can follow his arguments and enjoy the stories he tells within his various studies, such as the misfortunes of the most famous hypochondriac ever, Aelius Aristides. It is equally possible to pick one article at a time, or to read the whole book at one go, for Mudry never wrote just for specialists, but always in a clear, accessible fashion. The vast majority of Mudry’s papers were published in French, and a few in Italian. Whether including an article in Romanian (p. 95) was a useful thing to do is uncertain; also, the reverse chronological order adopted by the editor may or may not seem appropriate to every reader: the editor justifies her choice, arguing that it allows the reader to see how Mudry’s thought developed (p. xv1); the simple, chronological order might have proved just as efficient. But this is a very minor criticism, for this book constitutes a useful and pleasant introduction to ancient medicine. A series of indices supplements it conveniently.

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