

## Book Reviews

can be found in Arabic manuscripts. Robert Fludd called geomancy “terrestrial astrology” and, accordingly, some authors fit geomantic charts into astrological patterns, thereby deliberately abandoning some of the traditional correspondencies in astrology. The appendix gives the attributions by various authors, and even more importantly, the names and significations of the sixteen figures in Arabic traditions, Kordofan (Sudan), Greek (derived from Arabic), Latin such as the twelfth-century Hugh of Santafalla, Hebrew, Berber, three Madagascar regions, and six West African regions.

The chief merit of this book is that it has brought together versions of geomancy described in various eastern and western cultures, studied separately but never compared before. It is a pity that the Wellcome manuscripts 10 (Gerard of Cremona’s ‘Geomantiae astronomicae’ in Agrippa von Nettesheim’s works), 394 (Phillippus von Schlammersdorf Knodius), and 531 (‘Geomantia edita a magistro Gerardo Cremonensi’) have not been used and are not listed. All in all, this is a very informative book on a little-known subject.

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K.-D. FISCHER (editor), *Pelagonius, Ars Veterinaria*, Leipzig, Teubner, 1980, 8vo, pp. xlv, 203, M60.00.

Pelagonius the horse-doctor is not the most approachable of ancient medical authors, but Dr. Fischer, by his excellent edition with its full indexes and commentary, has made his remedies more accessible and comprehensible. The text, which is based on a single MS., supplemented by fragments in Latin and (a rare honour for a Latin writer) Greek, is full of strange spellings, and the editor has rightly refrained from precipitate classicizing emendation. The commentary, written in a clearer and wittier Latin, is particularly good on the identification of drugs and diseases. Printing errors are almost non-existent: one strangely occurs in the inserted *corrigenda* slip.

I subjoin a few points of doubt and criticism. § 5, 6: more is needed on these high officials of the late fourth century A.D. with a passion for horses (and also on Falerius, Festianus, and Emeritus the mule-doctor). § 77, 460: read “viatorium”, despite the note, for § 461 “*aliud viatorium*” needs a precedent. § 118: delete “*faciliorque . . . asperseris*” as a gloss? § 121ff.: a long list of chants and charms: with this folk medicine, cf. also the occasional specification of marble mortars (e.g. § 71). § 134: add after “est”, from the alternative version preserved in the MS. at § 138 “[*hos carachtheres facies in*] *cartha pura [et] combures*”. Two striking passages of more general interest need more comment: § 163: what are the “*curules equi*” (not in TTL)? and how are their chariots fixed and driven? by a collar strapped round the neck? § 397: “*lethe daemonis*” implies that the author sees some evil spirit at work in horses that behave wildly.

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R. J. Ch. V. TER LAAGE, *Jacques Moleschott, een markante persoonlijkheid in de negentiende eeuwse fysiologie?* [with English summary: *Jacques Moleschott, a striking figure in nineteenth-century physiology?*], De Bilt, [the author], 1981, 8vo, pp. 363, illus., Dfl. 40.00 (paperback). (Available from the author, 55 Waterweg, De Bilt, The Netherlands.)

Jacques Moleschott (1822–1893) was one of the well-known materialistic physiologists in Germany between 1844 and 1856, especially popular for his *Kreislauf des Lebens* (1852). He wrote an autobiography for his friends which was published in 1883 and translated into Italian by his daughter Elza Patrizi in 1902. The Patrizi family gave Moleschott’s correspondence to the Archiginnasio in Bologna, but unfortunately the collection was damaged during the second world war. What was left was in considerable disorder. Miss ter Laage studied these papers and chose some letters, which she could identify for her publication. Then she prepared a study of Moleschott’s life and work mainly based on his autobiography.

The result is a very charming, well-illustrated booklet, rather more a portrait of Moleschott as scientist and philosopher than a scientific evaluation of his contributions to nineteenth-