
Nous croyons que, dans les limites lui imposées par la série à laquelle son livre appartient, M. Goldhill a écrit une excellente introduction à un des grands chefs-d’œuvre du drame attique. L’utilité de son ouvrage est augmentée encore par la présence d’un Guide to further reading et d’une table chronologique disposant les principaux faits de la vie et de l’activité poétique d’Eschyle à côté des grands événements historiques et culturels à Athènes.
come to be known as the ‘Hippocratic Corpus’. The second part (“Le médecin dans l’exercice de son art”) describes the setting in which the Hippocratic doctors practised (surgery, instrumentarium, assistants, pupils, visits, bedside manners). The rhetorical nature of many Hippocratic writings is related to concrete performance situations in which the physician had to convince his audience of his competence and reliability (“Médecine et spectacle”), and to persuade his patients to join in a co-operative battle against diseases. It also discusses deontology, the Hippocratic concept of disease and its classifications, and the variety of therapeutic measures the doctors had at their disposal. The third part (“Hippocrate et la pensée de son temps”) is of great interest for historians of philosophy: it discusses Hippocratic ‘rationalism’, the place of the ‘divine’ in the explanation of diseases, and its various relations to contemporary religion and Presocratic natural philosophy. The fourth part (“Grandeur et limites de l’Hippocratisme”) tries to give a characteristic of what the Hippocratic writings, in spite of all their differences in doctrine and method, have in common and what made Hippocratic medicine so authoritative and influential in later times. It should be said that this is the least satisfactory section of the book: much of the material had better been integrated into the other sections, leaving more room for the discussion of the heritage of Hippocrates which, as it stands, is too superficial.

The book further contains three appendices: French translations of the Hippocratic Oath and of a recently published honorary inscription for the Coan physician Onasandros—an extremely important document about the career of a Hellenistic physician in the second century BC—and a very useful survey of all the Hippocratic writings (brief description of contents, structure, date, relation to other medical and philosophical works, recent editions). There is a large bibliography, an extensive index of names and a (perhaps too) selective index rerum.

The book does not presuppose any specialized knowledge, and the numerous quotations from the Greek—not just the well-known passages, and in each case carefully selected to illustrate the relevant points—are all presented in French translation and with brief but adequate comments. As is to expected with a work of this character, Jouanna’s discussion of the highly controversial issues, such as the