

Old wine in new bottles? Hippocrates, the classical tradition and the Early Enlightenment

Ian Maclean, Oxford and St Andrews, 19 November 2019

Francis Bacon, *Scripta in naturali et universali philosophia*, ed. Isaacus Gruterus, Amsterdam, 1653 pp. 469-70: 'Age citetur jam Hippocrates, antiquitatis creatura et annorum venditor. In cujus Viri autoritatem cum Galenus et Paracelsus magno uterque studio, velut in umbram Asini, se recipere contendat, quis non cachinnum tollat? Atque iste homo certe in Experientia obtutu perpetuo haerere videtur, verum oculis non natantibus et inquiringibus, sed stupidis et resolutis. Deinde a stupore visu parum recollecto, Idola quaedam, non immania quidem illa Theoriarium, sed elegantiora ista quae superficiem Historiae circumstant, excipit, quibus haustis tumens et semisophista, et brevitate (de illius aetatis more) tectus, oracula demum (ut his placet) pandit, quorum ii se interpretes haberi ambiunt; cum revera nihil aliud agat, quam aut sophistica quaedam per abruptas et suspensas sententias tradens redargutione subducat, aut rusticorum observationes supercilio donet.' Translation in Bacon, *The Masculine Birth of Time, or Three Books on the Interpretation of Nature*, in Benjamin Farrington, *The Philosophy of Francis Bacon*, Liverpool, 1964, pp. 67-8.

Bacon, *De dignitate et augmentis scientiarum libri ix* (1623), Leiden, 1645, pp. 305-6: 'Primum est, intermissio diligentiae illius Hippocratis, utilis admodum et accuratae, cui moris erat, narrativam componere, casuum circa aegrotos specialium; referendo qualis fuisset morbi natura, qualis medicatio, qualis eventus [...] Istam [narrativam] nec rursus tam angustam, ut solummodo Mirabilia et Stupenda (id quod a nonnullis factum est) complectitur.'

Bacon, *The advancement of learning* (1605), ed. Michael Kiernan, Oxford, 2000, pp. 86-7: 'For to say that the haire of the Eyelidde is for a quic-sette and fence about the sight: Or, That the firmness of the Skinnes and Hides of liuing creatures is to defend them from the extremities of heate and cold: Or, that the bones are for the columnes or beames, whereupon the Frames of the bodies of liuing creatures are built; Or, That the leaues of trees are for protecting the Fruite; Or, that the cloudes are for watering the Earth; Or, That the soldinesse of the earth is for the station and mansion of liuing creatures: and the like, is well inquired and collected in METAPHYSICKE, but in PHYSICKE they are impertinent.'

Sydenham, *Opera medica*, Geneva, 1696, pp. 16-17: 'ille Romulus, nunquam satis laudatus Hippocrates, qui hanc Arti Medicae insuper struendae solidam ac inconcussam substernens basin, viz., νοῦσων φύσεις ἡτροί, [Ep. 6.5.1] i.e. Naturae morborum mediatrices, id egit ut morbi cujuslibet Phaenomena aperte traderet, nulla Hypothesi adscita, et in partes per vim adacta; ut in ejus libris de Morbis, de Affectionibus, etc videre est. Regulas etiam quasdam tradidit, ex observatione methodi istius, qua utitur naturae tam in morbo provehendo, quam in eodem amoliendo, natus; cujusmodi sunt Coacae Praenotiones, Aphorismi, et reliqua id genus [...] illa Divini senis θεωρία nihil [erat] aliud quam exquisita naturae descriptio [...].

Otto Tachenius, *Hippocrates chimicus*, Venice, 1666

Nouveau cours de médecine [...] selon les principes de la nature et des mécaniques expliqués par Messieurs Descartes [et al.], Paris, 1669

Giorgio Baglivi, *De praxi medica in Opera omnia medico-practica*, Lyon, 1704

Friedrich Hoffmann, *Medicina rationalis systematica*, 6 vols, Halle, 1718-34

Johannes Doläus, *Medica Dogmatica: In Qua Omnes Affectus Interni, a Quibus Machina illa divina, sive Corpus humanum affligi unquam observatum fuit, juxta Celeberrimorum in Medicina Antistitum Principia plenarie pertractantur ; adeo ut in compendio quodam et uno intuitu tum Veterum, tum Recentiorum, Hippocratis, Galeni, Paracelsi, Helmontii, Willisii, Silvii, Cartesii, et Aliorum Sententiae De Morborum internorum maxime Causis et Curatione perspiciantur*, Frankfurt, 1691

Raphaële Andrault, 'What does it mean to be an empiricist in medicine? Baglivi's *De praxis medica* (1696)', in *What does it mean to be an Empiricist? empiricisms in eighteenth-century sciences*, ed. Siegfried Bodenmann and Anne-Lise Rey, Springer, 2018, pp. 169-188

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