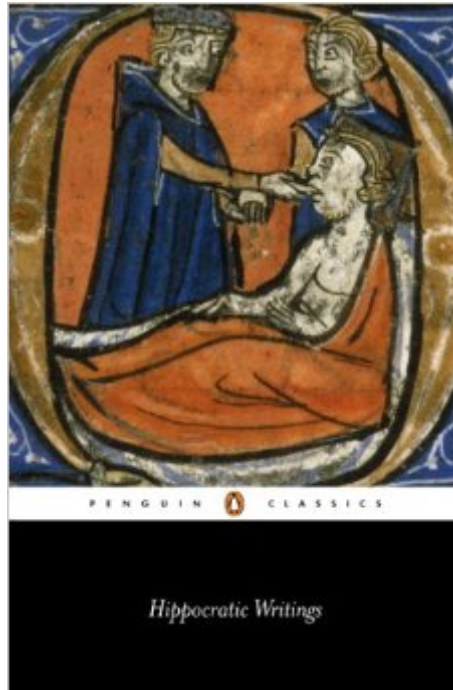


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Hippocratic Writings (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

This work is a sampling of the Hippocratic Corpus, a collection of ancient Greek medical works. At the beginning, and interspersed throughout, there are discussions on the philosophy of being a physician. There is a large section about how to treat limb fractures, and the section called The Nature of Man describes the physiological theories of the time. The book ends with a discussion of embryology and a brief anatomical description of the heart. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

When I came upon this book I had no idea that so much of Hippocrates' writings survived. So many other ancient Greek writers survive only in fragments. I was blown away that this book contained over 300 pages of ancient Greek text, and even more text survives not contained in this book. One can actually read and get some insight into how physicians in ancient Greece were trained and how they thought about healthcare. Having said that and having read through the entire book, I can confidently say that large parts of the book don't make a "good read", being either repetitive or obsessed with certain observations or ideas that the writer is trying to prove. I have a hard time

imagining anyone other than a physician with 10+ years of experience (this author) or a determined scholar trying to slog through the texts and getting something out of it. There are not a lot of areas where a modern day physician can read Hippocrates to gain wisdom into current day healthcare. There are definitely a few, but they are pretty well buried and no longer than a sentence or two. It may take some thought to realize this, but Hippocrates' writings were probably so important because they are such an extensive listing of healthcare issues. Almost all of what Hippocrates has to say about why things are the way they are is wrong, but he is pretty good, at least, when it comes to observation and writing down what he sees. The section on embryology, all observational, was fairly amazing. Keep in mind that much of what ancient physicians did was tell people if they were going to get better or not, so in this respect, the book was good in informing the ancient physician, and in this area, I did get a feeling that Hippocrates did convey some still relevant observations.

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