their effect on health, but none seemed more important to Sigerist than geography and economics. Recognizing that "medical theories always represent one aspect of the general civilization of a period," Sigerist concluded that "in order to understand them fully we must be familiar with the other manifestations of that civilization. . . ." The history of medicine then could be written successfully only when placed in its social and cultural context. It is this approach which marked the contributions of Sigerist to a field of history that is almost as old as the practice of medicine itself.

As originally conceived, volume 2 was to deal with Greek, Indian, and Persian medicine in their totality. But at the time of his death Sigerist had brought to completion only material dealing with the early periods. Of these the section on Persia suffers most, for ancient Persia made little contribution to the development of medicine. The scholar can regret that the study did not reach the 10th and 11th centuries of the modern era, the period during which Persian civilization flourished under the influence of Islam and in which Persian medicine reached its zenith. Surely Sigerist would have provided interesting insights into the problems surrounding the relations between society, religion, and medicine during this important period in Middle Eastern history.

The organization of the remaining sections follows the system adopted in the first volume; thus a chapter is devoted to the "setting" of ancient India and another to the early Indus civilization. The lengthy chapter, "Life in the Greek city-states," provides an excellent study of the place of medicine and hygiene in early Greek society.

Sigerist was aware of the importance of religious and philosophic trends in the development of medical thought and practice; and setting the medicine of ancient India alongside that of ancient Greece brings into sharp contrast the relatively advanced empirical and rational content of the latter as compared to the religious spirit of the former.

This volume was edited and brought through publication by Ludwig Edelstein and Miriam Drabkin; they also share responsibility for the excellent choice of illustrations.

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