

Book Reviews

The reviewer would conclude: Paracelsus is likely to have been influenced by medieval vocabulary as well as by baiting practice as transmitted in a printed source (Konrad von Megenberg) with which he was familiar. This, however, in no way affects his originality in having (a) used ether-like products in human conditions requiring sedation such as notably epilepsy and (b) devised a true pharmacological test in the experimental animal which in purport and make-up went far beyond medieval baiting experiments.

From the rest of the essays which deal with Paracelsists, confirmed as well as secret, and the actual influence of Paracelsus that comes to light in many unexpected places we would select in particular that on methods of *inducing fever for cure* in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Ant. Mizaldus). The book as a whole and each of the essays forms a publication of great importance not only for the history of Paracelsus, but also for the periods preceding and following him, based as it is on original source material and the profound scholarship and literary resourcefulness of the author. It is an elegant volume and well illustrated.

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