

ABSTRACT

HIPPOCRATES' DISEASES OF WOMEN BOOK 1 – GREEK TEXT WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND FOOTNOTES

by

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Diseases of Women, Book I, is part of the Hippocratic Corpus of approximately seventy treatises, although different authors contributed to the writings, as is evident by slight changes in text. It is the first of three works by Hippocrates on gynaecological problems. Fifth century BC doctors did not dissect either humans or animals, so their theories were based purely on observation and experience. Book I deals with women who have problems with menstruation, either the lack of it or an excess, infertility and, when conception does take place, the threat of miscarriage and dealing with the stillborn child. Various remedies are given, including herbal infusions, vapour baths and mixtures that the modern day patient would shudder at, e.g. animal dung and headless, wingless beetles. One remedy, hypericum, or St John's Wort, used for depression, has become popular today as an alternative medicine.

Ten Key Terms

Ancient Greek medicine

Hippocrates

Hippocratic Corpus

Gynaecological disorders in Ancient Greece

Diseases of Women in the Ancient World

Diseases of Women in Ancient Greece

Infertility in the Ancient World

Treatments for Diseases of Women in the Ancient World

Herbal remedies of the Ancient World

Herbal remedies in the Hippocratic Corpus