say is a masterful summary of its subject and ends with a useful bibliography. The second part of the book illustrates the exhibits; there are nearly 250 photographs, all but one of them in full color (even to illustrate pages of text from manuscripts), and all are described in detail, with further bibliography. There are also a number of photographs of relevant sites, for example, of the mārijātān of Granada and the river mills and bridge at Córdoba. The scholarship is first rate throughout, and the standard of the photographs and overall presentation of the catalogue is, in a word, superb.

In this work the editors have performed an important dual service to scholarship. They have prepared an outstanding record of an event in the history of Islamic science that is unlikely to be repeated for a very long time, and in the course of doing so they have created a valuable historical survey of a field in which such tools have long been lacking. This catalogue indicates in a most vivid fashion not only how much remains to be done in the history of Andalusian science, but also the richness of the source materials available for study and research.

LAWRENCE I. CONRAD


Dirk van Ulsen, alias Theodericus Ulsenius, was a Dutch physician and humanist, an almost forgotten figure. Born in Zwolle around 1460, he received a degree in medicine, probably from an Italian university (Bologna?). He established himself in Nuremberg from 1492 to 1501. In 1495 he was appointed town physician of this imperial city, where he was adopted by the intellectual circle around Konrad Celtis and Sebald Schreyer. Through them he also came into close contact with the physician and historian Hartman Schedel, Albrecht Dürer, and the imperial court circles around the emperor Maximilian. After short periods in several German universities and cities, he returned to Holland to die in obscurity at ‘s-Hertogenbosch in 1508. Thanks to Hartman Schedel, who made manuscript copies of a number of Ulsenius’s writings, the life and works of Ulsenius can be studied extensively.

Catrien Santing has done more than just rescue Ulsenius from oblivion. “Medical science and humanism” are the real subjects of her book, originally a doctoral dissertation in history at the University of Groningen. She has succeeded in reconstructing the intellectual network of which Ulsenius was part and in situating this rather obscure humanist in his cultural context. The first four chapters are largely chronological and deal with Ulsenius’s life. The second half of the book is devoted to his professional activities as a physician and his publications on medicine. Ulsenius’s reaction to the syphilis epidemic is discussed in a separate chapter. His Vaticinium in epidemicam scabium (1496) was the first printed work to deal with syphilis in Germany. An annotated edition of this text, with a Dutch translation, is given as Appendix 3.

In his Protrepticus, a speech written upon his assumption of duties as town physician of Nuremberg, Ulsenius self-consciously adopts a position in the debate concerning the social and intellectual status of the physician. He claims for himself the title archiater, and he adheres to Galen’s opinion that the best physician is also a philosopher. Like Galen, he interprets the professional activities of the physician in philosophical and rhetorical terms. Ulsenius’s philosophical achievement should be understood in this context. He saw a new edition of Hippocrates’ Aphorisms (1496) through the press; he was a poet and orator. As a Neoplatonic philosopher he aspired to the summum bonum, the highest attainable in morals, religion, and ratio.

Catrien Santing has created a useful instrument to reconstruct the knowledge and mental horizon of a humanist and physician in northern Europe circa 1500. She has written her book with meticulous care after extensive research. The publishers have given the book the attention it deserves. The well-chosen illustrations show Ulsenius’s influence on Albrecht Dürer. The summaries in English and German, the extensive quotations in Latin from Ulsenius’s works, and the complete bibliography make the book accessible and worthwhile for any reader who is interested in early Renaissance intellectual and medical history. It would be highly desirable, moreover, to translate this fascinating book into English.

MANFRED HORSTMANSHOFF

Günther Oestmann. Die astronomische Uhr des Strassburger Münsters: Funktion und Bedeutung eines Kosmos-Modells des 16. Jahrhunderts. 326 pp., illus., figs., tables, bibl., apps.