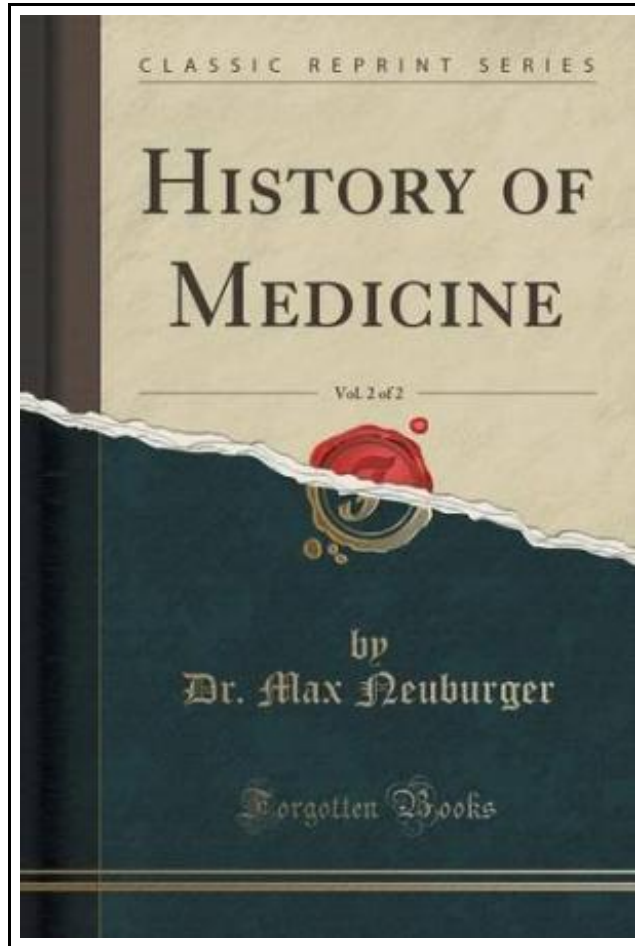


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from History of Medicine, Vol. 2 of 2 Viewed from the standpoint of evolution as a whole the goal which mediaeval medicine sought to attain was the collation and elaboration of ancient tradition. Owing to unfavourable influences the West required far longer time for the attainment of this end than did Byzantium or the Islamic nations. Occidental medical art, which had shown signs of deterioration and decadence even in the later centuries of Imperial Rome, dragged out its existence through more than five hundred years of the Middle Ages before manifesting any tendency towards emancipation from the bondage of this intellectual stagnation; it attained to the dignity of a science only at that later epoch when the pre-eminence of the Arabs had begun to fail. Western medicine in the early Middle Ages is, strictly speaking, hardly a subject for the historian of science who would present a coherent picture of progressive events - at the utmost side-lights can be thrown upon medical conditions and literature, in as far as the very scanty information at our disposal makes this possible. Inadequacy of scientific principles, total stagnation of investigation, practice devoid of any lofty outlook, stereotyped and primitive, these are the characteristics of this eras healing art, an art which in its manifestations is almost reminiscent of the earliest stages of medical evolution. Gloomy as is the impression left upon the mind, the close connection of medicine with civilisation as a whole and its historic destiny come unmistakably to the fore, and its fate in this mournful period is bound up more intimately than usual with the spirit of the times. In order to bring the degradation of...



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