

R.J. Hankinson
University of Texas at Austin

Galen on Hippocratic Physics: Abstract

Galen attributes the notion that proper medical practice requires serious physical knowledge to Hippocrates. His principal exhibit in support of this claim is the Hippocratic *Nature of Man*, the authenticity of at least the central portions of which Galen defends with vigour in his commentary on the work. In his relatively early *Elements according to Hippocrates* Galen claims that Hippocrates not only was the founder of the standard model of Greek physics and physiology, but also supplied, albeit implicitly, proofs of the truth of it, proofs which Galen seeks to make manifest for a less sophisticated and intelligent age. In this paper I sketch the elements of Galen's element-theory, and discuss the strategies he employs in order to father it on his great medical master.