Arabic culture provided the melting pot for the medical substances from the West and the East which became the staple ingredients of pre-modern medicine. Amar and Lev are to be congratulated for tracing the origins of natural medicaments and the routes that they followed from South East Asia and India to the Middle East, and from one end of the Mediterranean to the other.

Charles Burnett, Warburg Institute, University of London

Explores the impact on medieval Mediterranean medicine of drugs introduced by the Arabs

For more than one thousand years Arab medicine held sway in the ancient world, from the shores of Spain in the West to China, India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in the East. This book explores the impact of Greek (as well as Indian and Persian) medical heritage on the evolution of Arab medicine and pharmacology.

Focusing on the main substances introduced and traded by the Arabs in the medieval Mediterranean, the authors show how they enriched the existing inventory of drugs influenced by Galenic–Arab pharmacology. Further, they look at how these substances merged with the development and distribution of new technologies and industries that evolved in the Middle Ages, and with new trends, demands and fashions regarding spices, perfumes, ornaments and foodstuffs–some of which, can be found in our modern-day food basket.

Key Features

• Assesses the assimilation of theoretical and practical Greek, Indian and Persian medicine into Arabic medical culture
• Reconstructs and presents a list of Materia Medica distributed by the Arabs as a result of their conquests
• Tells the stories of thirty-seven new Arabic drugs within the context of their natural history
• Includes thirty-five colour illustrations

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