

CASSIUS FELIX: *DNP* 2.1016; *LMA* 2.1554; *RE* 6.1723; Schanz-Hosius 4/2.283–85 (§1130).

Cassius Felix was a fifth-century physician from Cirta, Numidia, who wrote a treatise *De medicina*. Along with other scientific writers such as Caelius Aurelianus, **THEODORUS PRISCIANUS**, and **VINDICIANUS**, Cassius contributed to a movement that was largely responsible for the transmission of Greek medical knowledge to the Latin West. At least a portion of his *De medicina* was known to **BEDE**.

De medicina [CASS.FEL.Med.].

ed.: Fraise 2002.

MSS — *A-S Vers* none.

Quots/Cits Med. XLVIII: BEDA.Retract.Act. XXVIII.8 (see below).

Refs none.

An epitome of medical knowledge drawing heavily on **GALEN**, **HIPPOCRATES**, and other members of the Dogmatic school (*logica secta*) of antique medicine, Cassius Felix's *De medicina* lists eighty-four different ailments, categorized and presented in order from head to foot, usually with a definition and sometimes an etymology of the disease. *De medicina* seems not to have circulated very widely in the early Middle Ages, but **ISIDORE OF SEVILLE** drew on it, in some cases verbatim, for the medical portions of Book IV of his **ETYMOLOGIAE** (see Sharpe 1964).

In his *Retractatio in Actus Apostolorum* XXVIII.8 (ed. Laistner, *CCSL* 121.162–63), Bede quotes from *De medicina* XLVIII “Ad dysentariam,” which in turn quotes from Hippocrates on the dysentery afflicting Publius's father, cured by the apostle Paul in Acts 28 (see Ogilvy, *BKE* p 108; Cameron 1993 p 28; Lapidge 2006 pp 205, 297). While its pairing of the original Greek terms with their Latin equivalents made *De medicina* an especially important source for Greek medical terminology in Western medicine, the work (possibly due to the exotic nature of its pharmacopoeia) had little impact in terms of everyday use in Anglo-Saxon England.

Hilary Fox

Works Cited

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