A NEW FRAGMENT OF ERASISTRATUS’

‘Η ΤΩΝ ΥΓΙΕΙΝΩΝ ΠΡΑΓΜΑΤΕΙΑ

A previously unknown fragment of text from Book I of Erasistratus’ ή τῶν ύγεινῶν πραγματεία1) is preserved in a Laurentian Ms.2) of Galen’s περὶ φλεβοτομίας πρὸς ’Ερασιστρατεῖος τῶν ἐν ἈΘΗΝΑΙ6). The Ms. is fragmentary and badly damaged in places, but the recovered material is to be found in a section of the text4) preserved in all the extant Mss. in the context of a lengthy quotation by Galen5) from the writings of Erasistratus. The entire context is illuminated by the reading of the Laurentian Ms., particularly in that the restored material provides the necessary antecedents for the sentence which now follows it: τάντα γάρ ομολογεῖ... can now be seen to refer to the restored fragment, where in the reading of the tradition upon which the Kühn text is based, the antecedents are missing. The immediate context within the quotation is given below; the restored material is underscored. The subject under discussion is the treatment of plethora.

K XI 238.5–239.4

κατείχει τὸν καί οὐδὲν καὶ τὸν ἐνεμάτων τῶν μετὰ γάλακτος κόλαθον [τά] καὶ ἀμύλου καὶ πάντων τῶν τοιούτων

1) On the form of the title of Erasistratus’ book, cf. R. Fuchs, Erasistratae quae in librorum memoria latent congesta enarratur. Diss. Leipzig. 1892, p. 15. The original work was in two books; Galen’s reference (K XI 235. 13) is to τοῦ προτέρου τῶν ύγεινῶν.

2) Laurentianus plut. LXXIV. 22. The Ms. is of the fourteenth century, as is Ambrosianus gr. 129, the exemplar of the remainder of the extant Mss. For a complete catalogue of the Mss. see my article “Critical Notes on Galen’s De Venae Sectione Adversus Erasistrateos Romae Degentes [K XI 187–249]” Classical Quarterly XXIII (1973) 369–374. An examination of the omissions and corruptions of the text reveals that while L and A are descended from a common ancestor, L is the sole representative of a separate branch of the stemma. Other abbreviations used in this article: S = the Aldine edition of 1525; edd. = consensus of all editions including the Basil (1583), Chartier (1679), and Kühn (1826).
Meat, eggs, fish, vegetables cooked with milk, gruel, fine meal cake, and all foods of this sort should be avoided during the period stated or should be used in very small amounts during the course of this treatment so that the plethora that has begun may be safely overcome. And for those for whom physical exercise is not customary, there is no advantage in embarking upon more exercises lest ever at the onset of illness there be fatigue in addition to the pre-existent condition, but rather embark upon a course of inducing perspiration, bathing, and fasting. The foregoing equally effect safe evacuations in most cases. It is beneficial to all who vomit easily to vomit after dinner, even if they are unsuited to any other treatment, leaving no great interval of time after the meal in order that the food be undigested at the time of the vomiting and that the nutritive element of the food not be received (by the body) long before

6) The word φῶν occurs only in L.
the vomiting. On the following day take a midday meal and induce sweating and bathe. When the body is evacuated and the plethora reverses its course, return in a short while to the usual diet.

Irvine

Ronald F. Kotrč