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## The Birth of the Hospital in the Byzantine Empire

By TIMOTHY S. MILLER

The Johns Hopkins University Press June 1997, 1997. Paper Back. Book Condition: New. Classified on its back cover by the heading "History of Medicine," The Birth of the Hospital in the Byzantine Empire is an excellent synthesis of the way in which Hellenic culture, city environment, the Christian church, monasticism, Roman law, imperial bureaucracy, and the medical profession participated in the formation and development of Byzantine hospitals. Depending primarily on the Typikon of the Pantokrator Monastery in Constantinople for its substantial description of the monastery-sponsored hospital known as the Pantokrator Xenon, Miller begins his careful unraveling of the complex history of the xenon's daily administrations including its location, professional staff and patient treatment. He then manages a brief history of medicine in the ancient world prior to the fourth century before launching into the theological arguments that arose in the Eastern Church for and against the use of secular medicine in caring for the sick. The Greek Fathers, with Basil of Caesarea at their helm, stressed the goodness of God's creation and its potential (in the hands of skilled physicians) to "provide the proper additive to restore the imbalance of disease to the equilibrium of health." Ironically, the first hospital...



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