

Study Questions on Galen and Paracelsus (Kearny 114-126)

Galen (Kearney 114-126)

1. What is the nature of disease according to the Galenic four humour theory?
2. What is the neo-Platonic doctrine of macrocosm and microcosm?
3. What distinctions does Kearny draw between the Galenic and Paracelsian approaches to disease?
4. What distinguishes Paracelsus' three principles from the four elements of the Greeks?
5. What is "iatro-chemistry"? Why is it better suited to Paracelsian medicine than Galenic medicine?

Paracelsus (Pagel)

1. In what sense is Gnosticism dualistic?
2. What is the neoplatonic concept of the *astral body*? According to Pagel, how does the astral body allow neo-Platonism to preserve its basic dualistic attitude without sacrificing the idea of cosmic continuity?
3. What are the *logoi spermatikoi*?
4. What is the *Archeus*?
5. According to Pagel, what neo-Platonic concept corresponds to the Paracelsian "spirit" (*archeus*)?
6. How do Paracelsians and Galenists differ on the nature of temperament?
7. What are *semina*? What are the *tria prima*? How do these Paracelsian concepts differ from the four elements?
8. According to Pagel, what is the difference between Gnostic "preformation" and Christian "creation"? Which view does Paracelsus subscribe to?
9. What was Paracelsus's "tartar" pathology?
10. What is Paracelsus's ontological view of disease? How is it different from the view of Galenists?
11. What is the correspondence between humans and the *tria prima*?
12. According to Pagel, in what sense is Paracelsus not a dualist, and hence not a neo-Platonist?

The Chemical Philosophy (Debus 16-33).

1. When were (al)chemical texts introduced to Western Europe?
2. What new theory of metals did 8th century Islamic writers add to medieval alchemy?
3. According to Debus, what are some possible sources of the aura of secrecy and mysticism attached to alchemy?
4. According to Debus, in addition to allegorizing and mysticism, what did alchemy emphasize?
5. In addition to Medieval alchemy, what factor played a role in influencing the chemistry of the Renaissance?
6. Why did the Paracelsians reject Aristotle?
7. According to Debus, why did the Paracelsians reject mathematical methods?
8. Why did the Paracelsians reject Aristotle's theory of motion?
9. To what uses were the elements put by Aristotelian alchemists, physicians, and physicists, respectively?
10. What was the Paracelsian chemical interpretation of Genesis?
11. What was the Paracelsian explanation of thunder and lightning? What was the Paracelsian explanation of volcanoes?
12. How does the macrocosm/microcosm doctrine imply the divine origin of medicine and the physician as priest?
13. Why did 17th century Paracelsians reject the common Galenic practice of blood-letting?
14. What is the significance of the publication in 1618 of an official pharmacopoeia by the London College of Physicians?
15. According to Debus, what *type* of mathematics did the Paracelsians reject? What type did they adopt?