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THE PHARMACOLOGICAL WORK OF ARCHIGENES APAMEUS AS IT IS REFERRED IN CORPUS GALENICUM

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Corpus Galenicum is undoubtedly the most important collection of medical works of the late antiquity. Galen's works give us a lot of information about doctors of his age and the past times. Their works otherwise would be unknown to us. An interesting case to study in such a way is that of Archigenes Apameus and his pharmacological works. Galen not only mentions specific treatises, but also refers to his entire work. He evaluates it as a legacy of many and important works.

Concerning Archigenes' treatises on pharmacology they are: a) «On remedies by kind», the most important of all, which includes in a single work all the views about pharmacology of other doctors which they expressed in several treatises under numerous titles. b) «On the use of castorion». According to Galen this treatise examined thoroughly the properties of castorion (a drug that was produced from the sex glands of beaver). c) «On the correct dose of hellebore». Hellebore was used by Archigenes as a laxative. According to the information provided by Galen, Archigenes wrote a whole book on this subject.